

King Fahd names Shura council, limits cabinet terms

RIYADH (Agencies) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has appointed 60 members to a new consultative council and announced he would for the first time limit the terms of office of cabinet ministers.

The ministers' terms will be limited to four years, with the possibility of further extensions of two years each as a maximum, according to Saudi Television. Previously ministerial terms were unlimited.

The king announced in March 1992 that he would appoint a consultative council within six months, amid increasing calls for democratic reforms in the wake of the 1991 Gulf war that drove Iraq out of Kuwait.

Last September King Fahd named his justice minister as head of the new consultative council to be set up under limited political reforms. A royal decree named Sheikh Mohammed Bin Ibrahim Ben Jubair as president of the 60-member council (Majlis Shura).

The king said at the time that the council would be able to discuss general policy and planning, have an initial four-year term and take decisions by majority vote.

It will submit its decisions to the prime minister, and the king will adjudicate if there is disagreement.

The council will also be able to question government ministers.

The king first raised the idea of such a council in November 1990 during the crisis sparked by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The long-awaited appointment will give ordinary Saudis their first formal voice in the conduct of the kingdom's government.

None of the members of the new council was apparently a direct descendant of King Fahd's father, the late King Abdul Aziz who created Saudi Arabia in 1932.

Senior members of the royal family have traditionally controlled the country's vast oil wealth, its huge foreign assets and its political, financial and military affairs.

Decrees issued late on Friday night said the council, which has a four-year term, should meet in ordinary session at least once every two weeks. It would not be open to the public.

The decrees said no government department had authority over the council while members "are not allowed to take any papers, systems or documents related to the council's work outside the council."

King Fahd was quoted in March as saying the council "will provide true help to the state by offering advice to benefit the country and its citizens."

The members, who will each receive a basic monthly salary of 20,000 riyals (\$5,333), are a mixture of academics, authors, retired military officers, businessmen and government officials.

They include the under-secretaries of the ministries of labour and trade, Ahmad Ben Hamad Al Yihia and Tawfiq Ibrahim Tawfiq respectively, businessman Suliman Abdul Rahman Al Solh, antiquities professor Abdul Rahman Al Tayib Al Ansari and Fahd Al Urabi Al Farhi, a former French-educated editor-in-chief.

Diplomats in the region said the deployment of hundreds of thousands of American and other non-Muslim soldiers in the conservative kingdom during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis ended Saudi Arabia's sense of isolation and accelerated reforms which were first promised some 21 years ago.

Although the political reforms introduced so far fall short of Western concepts of democracy, they said the appointment of the council was an important step in a gradual modernisation process.

Saudi Arabia, with a population of about 17 million including more than 3.5 million expatriates, is the world's largest oil producer and exporter.



MOURNING: Friends mourn at the funeral Friday of Israeli soldier Mir Zela'it, killed in South Lebanon Thursday. Seven soldiers were killed in one attack and another two were killed later in the same area. The Hizbollah has claimed they carried out the attacks (AFP photo)

Shaath: There is Israel-PLO dialogue

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) already have an official dialogue, according to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's political adviser, who claims to be in contact with a close aide of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"It is beyond dispute that an official dialogue exists between Israel and the PLO," Nabil Shaath said in an interview published in the Yediot Aharanot newspaper.

"What is more, there is a person I meet to push forward the peace process. I won't say where, but he plays a leading role."

"We have very, very concrete talks. The content is immediately passed on to Yitzhak Rabin and I have an account to Arafat and Abu Mazen," he said referring to PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas.

According to Israeli press reports, Mr. Abbas met Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Cairo in July.

Dr. Shaath gave an example of the importance of his contacts, saying Israel had presented at the peace talks a document referring to the occupied West Bank as "Judea-Samaria."

"That term could have destroyed the negotiations. I contacted this person and within half

an hour the problem was solved," Dr. Shaath told Yediot in an interview in Cairo.

"In recent years, I have developed trust and friendly ties with numerous Israelis," he went on. "At the time they were all in the opposition and are today in government."

"It is of course difficult to continue the dialogue with them and I know that part of what I tell them will reach Yitzhak Rabin."

Dr. Shaath also recently met Israel's Environment Minister Yossi Sarid in Egypt.

"I had met him at least 50 times before at international reunions. The difference was that this time Rabin authorised the meeting."

Mr. Rabin lifted a ban on contacts with the PLO in January, but he officially refuses to have direct talks with the organisation.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has said that the PLO's failure to "entirely denounce terrorism" was among factors blocking direct talks with the group in the Middle East peace process.

Another was Israel's lack of incentive for meeting with the PLO "since we have a Palestinian delegation formally representing the Palestinians," Mr. Peres said last week.

Hekmatyar demands Russian pullout

TEHRAN (AFP) — Afghan Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has demanded that Moscow withdraw its forces from the Afghan-Tajik border and warned it not to repeat the mistakes of its Afghan invasion, Iran's IRNA news agency reported.

The official news agency quoted Mr. Hekmatyar, who arrived here Wednesday for an official visit, as saying the border crisis "will be solved only through a consensus" between the Tajik government and opposition groups.

Islamic fundamentalist Tajik opposition groups based in Afghanistan have in recent months been launching attacks on the Dushanbe government and Russian troops stationed on the Tajik-Afghan border, prompting reprisals by the Russians' last month which killed hundreds of civilians in Afghanistan.

Mr. Hekmatyar blamed the developments in Tajikistan and Russia's "savage attacks" on the Afghan border for the delay in freeing Russian prisoners of war captured during the 1979-1989 occupation by the former Soviet Union.

He said a tripartite agreement had been signed between Tehran, Kabul and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to facilitate the return of more than two million Afghan refugees currently in Iran before the onset of winter.

"We have asked for proper conditions for the return of refugees and for mechanisms to be set up to answer their complaints," he said.

Tehran and Kabul have also agreed to set up an anti-narcotics committee to expedite their campaign against drug trafficking in the region.

Afghanistan and Pakistan are major sources of various drugs — mainly heroin, morphine and opium — which are smuggled into Iran en route to Europe via Turkey.

Iranian authorities say they have already seized more than seven tonnes of narcotics since March 1992 and Tehran has repeatedly called on other countries to join in the campaign.

The Afghan prime minister sought to reassure the United States over the anti-aircraft Stinger missiles it supplied to the Mujahideen during their battle with the communist-backed regime in Afghanistan.

Washington has expressed concern that the missiles could fall into the hands of groups or regimes who are at odds with the United States.

Sudanese make U.S. 'enemy No. 1'

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Hundreds of Muslim fundamentalists held a march in Khartoum to protest against Washington's decision to put Sudan on its list of countries sponsoring "terrorism," witnesses said.

Their leader, Sheikh Ahmad Mahjub Haj Nur, told the rally after Friday prayers that after its decision, "America should know it has become enemy number one," press reports said Saturday.

State television reported that the procession towards the U.S. ambassador's residence was "huge" and showed pictures of marchers shouting anti-American slogans and "Allahu Akbar."

Sheikh Nur, the imam of the Khartoum University mosque, said the Sudanese people should "fight their enemies wherever they are," describing the crusade as "a struggle between good and evil."

Washington's envoy, Donald Peterson, formally notified the Islamic-backed military junta here of the decision to blacklist the country on Wednesday. It means an end to most U.S. foreign assistance and military aid.

U.S. State Department officials said Sudan had developed ties with the radical pro-Iranian fundamentalist movement Hizbollah and two "extremist" Palestinian organisations.

American television reports also linked Sudanese diplomats with 12 suspects arrested in June, five of them Sudanese, over an alleged plot to bomb sites in New York.

Khartoum has called Washington's decision "regrettable" and denied the charges of sponsoring "terrorists." No official from the Sudanese government or administration was shown taking part in Friday's rally.

The demonstration shown on television was disciplined and there was apparently no violence. The president of the Sudanese Bar Association, Ali Al Nasry, said the government should shrink U.S. diplomatic representation in Sudan and lodge complaints against Washington at the United Nations, the Arab League and the Organisation of African Unity.

Mr. Nasry added that a list of "arrogant states" should be drawn up, with the United States on top, the state-controlled Al Engasr Al Watani daily reported Saturday.

Sheikh Nur told the crowd the Sudanese people supported the government of Lieutenant General Omar Hassan Al Bashir and its Islamic orientation.

Gen. Bashir said Thursday the move came as no surprise as Sudan had been "a victim of the unjust campaign being waged on it due to its Islamic orientation."

The U.S. administration had failed to prove its allegations that Sudan supports "terrorism" and had not proven the existence of "terrorism" camps it alleges exist in Sudan, he said.

The list makes Sudan ineligible for non-humanitarian U.S. aid and for commercial sales of U.S. arms or technology that could equip "terrorists." It also requires Washington to veto world bank loans to Khartoum.

A U.S. State Department spokesman acknowledged the sanctions were largely symbolic because Sudan receives nothing but some U.S. humanitarian aid, commercial deals are minor and no loans are pending.

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Rafsanjani plays down rift over minister

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, putting a brave face on parliament sacking his finance minister, said Friday no members of parliament opposed the government's basic economic reform programme.

But he acknowledged the government should do something about a cash squeeze created by tight monetary policies championed by Mohsen Nourbakhsh, the economy and finance minister voted out of office by the Majlis (parliament) in a surprise move on Monday.

Mr. Rafsanjani promptly appointed the U.S.-trained economist as vice-president for economic affairs.

In a sermon at weekly mass prayers in Tehran, Mr. Rafsanjani went out of his way to praise the Majlis and said he would cooperate with it in drawing up a good five-year plan "to frustrate those who dream of tensions between the government and the Majlis."

"I sincerely thank the Majlis and the deputies. They treated the matter very well," Mr. Rafsanjani said in the sermon, broadcast on Tehran Radio.

Before the vote on Monday he was much less conciliatory, saying most of the criticism of his proposed ministers in the Majlis debate was "unjust."

"Twenty-two ministers were approved with very high votes... we also lost a minister," said Mr. Rafsanjani, who started his second four-year term as president this month.

"In my view this was done in a natural way, there was no scheming," he said.

The radical newspaper Salam speculated on Thursday that the conservative Majlis majority might have plotted to vote against Mr. Nourbakhsh without attacking him in the debate, fooling Mr. Rafsanjani into the belief that his position was secure.

Mr. Nourbakhsh came just four votes short of approval.

"None of the 20 deputies who spoke in the debate criticised the economic policies of the first five-year-plan. What criticism there was referred to methods of its implementation," Mr. Rafsanjani said.

He said he had appointed Mr. Nourbakhsh vice-president to maintain his central role in drawing up the second five-year plan.

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.N. calls on Iran to back Rajavi probe

GENEVA (AFP) — A U.N. Human rights committee has appealed to Iran to cooperate with a Swiss judicial inquiry into 13 Iranians implicated in the assassination of the brother of the head of the Iranian opposition in exile, Kazem Rajavi was assassinated in Geneva in April 1990 by unidentified assailants. The examining magistrate in the case concluded that one or more official Iranian organisations were "directly involved" in the killing. The organisations cited in the plea to Tehran by the United Nations Sub-Committee on Human Rights are all holders of diplomatic passports. The sub-committee's resolution, which was passed by 20 votes to three with two abstentions, also expressed concern at "the violent repression of public demonstrations" in Iranian cities, and at what it said was a rise in arrests of anti-government protesters. The sub-committee condemned the "harassment" of Iran-based relatives of Iranian political refugees. The resolution came three days after the U.N. committee responsible for monitoring the implementation of international human rights agreements criticised the "extremely high number" of judicially flawed executions carried out in Iran. The committee also highlighted the case of British writer Salman Rushdie, who was condemned to death in 1989 on religious grounds by Iran's late spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Four members of Kuwaiti royal family arrested

LONDON (AP) — Four members of the Kuwaiti royal family were arrested at Heathrow Airport Friday after allegedly assaulting a cab driver in a disagreement over a fare, police said. A police spokesman described the four men as "very, very distant members of the royal family." Their names were not released. "The four men are believed to have assaulted the cab driver in a dispute over the fare," the spokesman said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The driver was taken to nearby Ashford hospital, but was not seriously hurt. The four men were in custody at the Heathrow police station.

Police deny accused Lebanese linked to bombs

MILAN (R) — A Lebanese man who was at the centre of a major mafia bombing probe 10 years ago was charged on Friday in a stolen car case. Milan police said Ghassan Bou Khebel, 47, was accused of receiving stolen goods in connection with the stolen car he was driving when police detained him on Tuesday. State television had reported on Tuesday that Mr. Ghassan was questioned by the magistrate heading investigations into a car bomb on July 27 which killed five people and destroyed part of Milan's modern art gallery. But a police official, Achille Serra, told a news conference on Friday that Mr. Ghassan had been questioned by magistrates from the Sicilian cities of Palermo and Caltanissetta. He said no other magistrates had yet asked to talk to him. Two other bombs exploded on July 27, damaging the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome and a tiny seventh century church near the Roman forum. Police suspect the mafia had a hand in the three bombings but was not acting alone.

UAE to evacuate 50 sick from Bosnia

DUBAI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will evacuate 50 wounded Bosnian Muslims to its hospitals, the third Gulf Arab country to join an international effort to evacuate and treat wounded Bosnian patients. The official Emirates news agency (WAM) said that UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan has issued orders to evacuate the 50 Bosnians at his personal expense. Saudi Arabia said on Thursday that a medical Saudi C-130 transport plane will evacuate 50 Bosnian Muslims for treatment in the kingdom. Kuwait this week also said it would transport and treat an undisclosed number of Bosnian Muslims. Saudi Arabia has given Bosnian Muslims about \$128 million in private and official donations. It repeatedly calls on the West to lift an arms embargo so that Muslims in Bosnia can defend themselves.

Fire injures 100 people in UAE

DUBAI (R) — More than 100 people, mostly Sri Lankan women, were injured when a fire broke out at a paint factory and later spread to neighbouring buildings in the UAE emirate of Sharjah. Local newspapers said the fire, which raged until early on Saturday, gutted a paint factory and spread to the living quarters of Sri Lankan women workers at a nearby garments factory. They said the cause of the fire, described as the worst in the United Arab Emirates in recent years, was not known.

Iran sends relief supplies to Lebanon

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran has dispatched a shipment of relief supplies for victims of Israeli air raids in Lebanon, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the 150-tonne consignment of food and medicines was handed over to the Lebanese Health Ministry Thursday. Israel launched a week-long land, air and sea blitz on Lebanon earlier this month to avenge the deaths of seven Israeli soldiers killed by guerrillas. The raids killed nearly 150 people, wounded 500 and displaced about a half million. Also Thursday, an Iranian C-130 cargo plane also delivered a consignment of medical supplies to neighbouring Afghanistan, which is in shambles after 13 years of war, IRNA reported.

Kurds seize 4 more tourists

ANKARA (AFP) — Four tourists from Italy and Sweden have been kidnapped near Dogubeyazit in eastern Turkey by Kurdish rebels, the pro-Kurds daily Ozgur-Gundem reported Saturday. The kidnaps said to have taken place near the Iranian border. Thursday, but authorities here were unable to give further details. However, the newspaper named the two Italians, Anna Dandrea and Angelo Palego, and identified the Swedish nationals as Nicco Riccarda and Giuseppe Virgilio. The tourists were seized for "being in Kurdistan without the necessary authorisations," the daily said, citing the military branch of the separatist Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK). This was the same reason given for the nine previous tourist kidnappings which have occurred since early July. Two Germans and a New Zealander are still being held by the PKK, but four French tourists, a Briton and an Australian were released last week.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Le monde est à vous
19:00 News in French
19:15 Le Journal de l'histoire
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Step by Step
21:10 The Dream Machine
22:00 News in English
22:20 French series

PRAYER TIMES

04:57 Fajr
05:59 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:39 Dhuhur
16:17 'Asr
19:18 Maghreb
20:41 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellfish, Tel. 810749
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632783
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terresanta Church Tel. 623666

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 63541

Anglican Church Tel. 60851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Austrian International Church Tel. 625255

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 649332

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

Min./Max. temp. 21/33

Amman 26/39

Aqaba 19/36

Deserts 24/39

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings: Amman 31 per cent, Aqaba 45 per cent.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be westerly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Youssif Samour 625648
Dr. Issam Al Ansari 890504
Dr. Farouq Noor 766880
Dr. Bahjat Badar 849342
First pharmacy 661912
Fordous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Naioukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yaouq pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ali Al Shugairi 246140
Alquds pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:
Dr. Ziad Ju'aitin (-)
Khalifeh pharmacy 958117

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630521
Hotel Complaints 606800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 622001
Repairs 622001
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
Company

Flight Information

Qucan Alla Int. Airport 08-53200
Qucan Alla Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381/332
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 843845
University Hospital 657227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajiroun 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/26
Arty, Marja 89161/15
Qucan Alla Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674135
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)987232
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)99099
IRBID:
Princess Beana Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (02)52200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:30 Bangkok (RJ)
09:15 Aqaba (RJ)
09:30 Damascus (RJ)
10:00 Jeddah (RJ)
10:10 Lahore (RJ)
10:20 Doha, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:45 Beirut (RJ)
11:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:45 Larnaca (CY)
12:30 Bahrain (GF)
13:35 Cairo (MS)
14:00 Beirut (ME)
14:10 Frankfurt, Geneva (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Beirut (RJ)
07:10 Aqaba (RJ)
07:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
07:40 Rome (RJ)
07:50 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
08:00 Vienna (RJ)
08:10 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
08:20 Istanbul (RJ)
08:30 Athens (RJ)
08:40 Riyadh (RJ)
08:50 Damascus (RJ)
09:00 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
09:10 New Delhi (RJ)
09:20 Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
09:40 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
09:50 Beirut (RJ)
10:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:05 Larnaca (CY)
14:30 Doha, Bahrain (GF)
16:05 Moscow (SU)
21:25 Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in file per kg

Apple 30000
Apricot 40000
Banana 600/700
Beana (Mukannam) 520/620
Beans 100/120
Cabbage 100/120
Carrot 700/800
Challflower 180/200
Cherry (rod) 700/800
Cucumber (large) 100/120
Cucumber (small) 100/120
Eggplant 100/120
Garlic 700/800
Grapes 500/600
Lemon 300/400
Marrow (large) 100/120



Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday distributes certificates to the class of 1993 graduates of the Queen Noor Civil Aviation Technical College (Petra photo)

Queen Noor graduates 89 students from Civil Aviation Technical College

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday graduated the 1992-93 class of the Queen Noor Civil Aviation Technical College.

The Queen, who is the honorary chairwoman of the college board of trustees was received by Minister of Transportation Salim Al Tarawneh, Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority Ahmad Jweiber, Resident Representative for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Jordan Othman Hashem, and Dean of the Civil Aviation College, Tayseer Tajie.

Established as the Civil Aviation Training Centre in 1973, the centre was set up in cooperation with UNDP and the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

It was granted the status of an institute in 1978, to meet the

growing need for trained personnel in air traffic services, telecommunications and navigational aids, automation, airport management, and to upgrade the professional skills of civil aviation employees.

It was renamed the Queen Noor Civil Aviation Technical Institute in 1980.

In 1986, the Ministry of Higher Education agreed to upgrade the status of the institute to that of a college, granting it a licence to teach two year programmes and to offer diplomas equivalent to Jordanian community college diplomas.

The college offers specialised training courses in basic air traffic control, aeronautical information, aeronautical telecommunication services and telecommunication engineering to students from Jordan as well as other Arab countries.

During the ceremony, Mr. Jweiber said the college was chosen by the ICAO as one of the four best civil aviation training centres in the developing world, and that it was invited to join the international "trainair" programme as a founding member.

Dr. Tajie highlighted the college's achievements over the past five years and its future development plans.

Later, Queen Noor distributed certificates to 89 graduates and honoured 16 outstanding students for their achievements and contribution.

The Queen expressed her pride in the administration, teachers and graduates, and voiced her appreciation for their efforts to develop and maintain higher safety standards in aviation. Accompanying Queen Noor was Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Faisal.



CULTURAL CENTRE OPENS IN MUWAQQAR: Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Faisal Saturday formally opens a cultural centre at the Thahabiet Al Diham village in the Muwaqqar district, south of Amman. The centre is designed to enable young people of the district to promote their cultural and intellectual and artistic skills and capabilities. Abdullah Al Jbour, the director of the centre which is to be called Al Bawasel Cultural Forum, delivered a speech in which he said

that the centre will enhance cultural heritage and the sense of national belonging. He said the youth of his district believe in cultural pluralism and were attaching great hopes on acquiring knowledge through the center and cultural organisations in the country. Mr. Jbour later presented the Princess with the centre's shield and announced that a local citizen has donated JD 1,400 to help the centre promote and carry out its projects. The centre was originally established in June last year

Scientific R&D lags behind — Majali

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's total expenditure on scientific research and development does not exceed the 0.35 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and this is one of the main reasons the Kingdom lags far behind other nations, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali said Saturday.

It is impossible for Jordan under the present circumstances and with its limited means to pursue efforts in scientific research such as those of the United States, Japan or Germany for instance, but it could copy the example of Turkey, Portugal, Greece, Ireland and South Korea, said Dr. Majali in an address at the opening of 'Jordan Scientific Seminar Week' organised at the University of Jordan by the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST).

There is a major gap separating Jordan from these countries which allocate 0.5 to two per cent of their GDP to scientific research, thus helping to develop industry, added the prime minister.

"Our main aim," he said, "should be adopting science and technology as the main basis for comprehensive development in Jordan, and we can do that by first recognising the importance of science and technology for development and then define our priorities in these fields."

Urging concerned circles to benefit from the accumulated experiences of other advanced nations, the premier said that in his view, promoting the role of science and technology should be based on two elements: political

will and human and material resources.

Noting that the government has been pursuing efforts to establish the base for scientific research and development, Dr. Majali said that the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) was formed in the 1970s to serve as a nucleus for national research work and the HCST was established in 1987 to help formulate Jordanian policies and strategies in matters related to technology and research.

The prime minister, who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at the opening session, criticised the shortcomings of the past. He said that while the country has been intensifying its activities in holding seminars and conferences, the concerned persons have failed to implement their resolutions and recommendations.

More often, he added, many of the proposals put forth at these meetings were in fact devoid of substance and lacked accurate information.

"Experience has proved that there can be no proper solutions to many of our economic and social problems without appropriate and sound investment in science and technology," said Dr. Majali.

"We are now living through an era in which the underdeveloped countries are relying on the advanced nations for science and technology, but we can meet the challenge if we pursue a sound course of analysis and diligent work," he said.

In referring to advanced nations' development, the prime minister said it has been estimated that



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Saturday addresses the opening session of 'Jordan Scientific Seminar Week.' On the podium are Fawzi Gharabeh (right), president of the University of Jordan, and Hani Mulki, secretary general of the Higher Council for Science and Technology, the organiser of the event (Petra photo)

far ahead of us, and we ought to try to catch up and narrow the gap."

The HCST secretary general, Hani Mulki delivered a speech in which he outlined the council's endeavours.

Later, the prime minister opened a science and technology exhibition which displays scientific plans and achievements by

several Jordanian firms and some government ministries.

Ministers, businessmen, members of the diplomatic missions and representatives of concerned organisations attended the opening session and exhibition.

In the first session, which followed the official opening, delegates discussed Japan's experi-

ence in developing science and technology.

The difficulties that smugglers face in getting their merchandise through Jordan have led to higher prices at the consuming end, according to reports from the Gulf states.

Jordan has won the praise of international law enforcement agencies and anti-drug agents for its record of foiling most smuggling operations.

In a recent incident, a large quantity of hashish was intercepted at Aqaba, sources said.

The drug was brought into Jordan across the demarcation line between Israel and the Kingdom in what appeared to be the first known case of narcotics smuggling through the well-patrolled area, they said.

Drug agents kept a close watch on the shipment, which was later transferred to secret compartments and spare wheels of a truck destined to leave for Egypt aboard the regular ferry service between Aqaba and Nuweibeh.

The haul was intercepted before the vehicle went aboard the ferry, they said.

Agents seize 100 kilos of hashish, arrest 3 suspects in smuggling attempt

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Anti-narcotics agents have seized nearly 100 kilograms of hashish and arrested three suspects in an operation mounted on Thursday, police sources said Saturday.

The sources said the drug haul was stashed away at a "secret" place near the Kingdom's border with Syria.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, declined to give details of the operation. They said investigations were continuing, and others involved in the affair could be arrested soon.

It was believed that the detained suspects were Syrian nationals and the drug originated in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

The sources said the haul consisted on 95 "bricks" of hashish — each weighing approximately 200 grammes — worth \$100,000 wholesale and at least \$50,000 on the street.

"The drug appeared to have been kept in Jordan ahead of

transshipment to the Gulf states," said a senior police source.

It was the second largest hashish haul in Jordan this year. In an earlier operation, drug agents seized one tonne of hashish worth \$1 million and arrested several suspects.

"Jordan is a major transit point for drugs between the producing countries and consuming countries," said the police source without naming the concerned countries.

But it was clear that he was referring to Lebanon, which continues to be a producer of hashish despite U.S.-inspired and Syrian-backed moves to destroy poppy fields in the Bekaa Valley.

Large poppy fields were burnt near the ancient city of Balbek in the Bekaa Valley in a series of operations under Syrian supervision in the past year.

International anti-narcotics agencies and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) have been accusing Syria of keeping a blind eye to large drug-smuggling operations, often organised by Lebanese warlords and militias.

Drugs passing through Jordan

find their way to the Gulf states, where the market is very lucrative, offering up to 500 per cent profit.

However, drug consumption is slowly growing in Jordan despite assertions by officials and social workers that the Kingdom does not have a "serious" narcotics problem.

Measures adopted by border security forces and customs agents to check smuggling across the border from Syria have contributed to efforts by the Anti-Narcotics Bureau to check the entry of drugs into the country.

Smugglers have shifted attention to a strip of desert near the Syrian-Jordanian border in the northeast after the tightening of anti-smuggling efforts in Jordan.

"Smugglers using the desert route in the northeast have to negotiate a relatively smaller area of Jordanian territory before entering Saudi Arabia," noted a well-informed source.

Security sources recently reported a shootout in the same area. A customs agent chasing a suspect vehicle in the desert was

shot and wounded.

The difficulties that smugglers face in getting their merchandise through Jordan have led to higher prices at the consuming end, according to reports from the Gulf states.

Jordan has won the praise of international law enforcement agencies and anti-drug agents for its record of foiling most smuggling operations.

In a recent incident, a large quantity of hashish was intercepted at Aqaba, sources said.

The drug was brought into Jordan across the demarcation line between Israel and the Kingdom in what appeared to be the first known case of narcotics smuggling through the well-patrolled area, they said.

Drug agents kept a close watch on the shipment, which was later transferred to secret compartments and spare wheels of a truck destined to leave for Egypt aboard the regular ferry service between Aqaba and Nuweibeh.

The haul was intercepted before the vehicle went aboard the ferry, they said.

AUB-Orthodox Society agreement raises conflict with government office

By Roufan Nabhas Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An agreement signed between the Orthodox Educational Society in Amman and the American University of Beirut (AUB) last Sunday has created a conflict between the Social Development Department of Amman and the Orthodox Society.

The agreement provides for advisory services in administrative and organisational areas, workshops, and training courses for both teachers and administrative staff of the primary educa-

tional institutions under the auspices of the Orthodox Society.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mohammad Al Sabagh, Director of the Social Development Department of Amman demanded in a letter sent to the president of the Orthodox Society, Foad Farraj to halt the agreement because it violates the Social Service Law (paragraph 2/Article 9) which states that no charity or social organisation is allowed to participate in or be a member of any society, organisation or club based outside the Kingdom without prior approval of the Prime Minister or the Ministry of Social Development.

Mr. Farraj told the Jordan Times that the Orthodox Society had sent a

written response to the social development department explaining the situation and describing its purpose.

He added that there is a misunderstanding about the issue. This agreement will be based on training and consultation under which the AUB will contribute to developing the educational process at the society's schools, he explained.

"I will contact the Prime Minister if things are misunderstood," Mr. Farraj said.

An official at the Social Development Department told the Jordan Times that they are aware of this matter, but declined any further elaboration.

A school administrator said that he hoped that the situation can be re-

solved because the agreement is for the benefit of the children and their future. He said the Orthodox Society worked very hard to develop the educational process at the school.

Mr. Farraj added that this agreement will provide the students with access to the AUB.

The Orthodox educational society, established 35 years ago, aims at upgrading the educational level at its schools.

The society founded the Ashrafieh Kindergarten and School, the Orthodox school in Shmeisani and the Wahbeh Tamary Kindergarten.

Mr. Farraj said that under the agreement, the society will pay the university \$18,000 annually in addition to expenses for training

7 Jordanian women to exhibit in first major U.S. art show of contemporary Arab women artists

By Ian Atalla Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Forces of Change: Contemporary Art of Women in the Arab World, an international art exhibit that will present an overview of the work of more than 60 of the Arab World's most prominent women artists, is slated to open at the National Museum for Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C., on February 7, 1994.

According to Samia Halaby, an artist of Palestinian origin and a member of the International Council for Women in the Arts (ICWA) which is organising the exhibit in cooperation with the museum, this will be the first ever presentation of contemporary work of Arab artists at a nationally renowned American art centre.

Selwa Nashashibi, the president of the ICWA who was in Jordan on ICWA business, told the Jordan Times that the main goal of the exhibit was to change the prevalent perception of the American art community and the American public as a whole, that the only noteworthy Arab artwork is implicitly either ancient, medieval Islamic or traditional folk art, and not contemporary 20th century Arab art. She sees this misperception as reinforcing a prevalent Western image of the Arab World as being backward.

There are many exhibits of ancient Middle Eastern art presented in the U.S. each year, she

said, which are "beautiful exhibits, but they are mostly about our dead civilisation. These exhibits do not go on to say how many artists have continued to develop this art or found new forms of it... in the last 20 years Arab artists have really become very independent in their experimentation."

The event will include the work of several well-known Jordanian artists: Her Highness Princess Zeid, Her Highness Princess Wijdan Ali, Hind Nasser, Suha Shoman, Mona Saudi, Samia Al Zaru and Riham Ghassib.

Her Majesty Queen Noor is the honorary chairwoman of the event and will preside over the official opening of the exhibit in Washington.

In addition to the arts pieces to be displayed, video-taped interviews of the artists participating in the exhibit will be shown at the museum, along with a festival of Arab films produced by Arab women in the 1980s and 1990s.

The film festival will be opened by Egyptian film actress Fatin Hamama.

"It (the exhibit) is a beginning," said Ms. Nashashibi. "We cannot say that we can change the attitudes right away, but we hope the American audience will have a chance to decide for themselves."

"And of course our main objective is to erase the negative stereotype about (Arab) women — there is a very obvious negative stereotype in the U.S. that

Arab women make no contribution to their society. They (the American public) cannot really place (Arab) women anywhere except behind men, and so we focus on women to counter those negatives. By promoting them as contributors of high standards, we are presenting the Arab culture and Arab women at the same time."

Ms. Nashashibi said the title exhibit was titled Forces of Change "because the main themes that the women have decided to choose for this exhibit are forceful ideas about the economic and political situation in the Middle East and how the wars and the new global image have affected their lives."

The Jordanian National Gallery and Royal Jordanian Airlines will handle the crating and shipping of the artwork going to the exhibit from Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the West Bank and possibly Egypt.

The exhibit will continue in Washington until May 15, and then will travel to Boston where it will open on May 22 and run until June 30. From there it will go to New York for the summer, then to Miami for the fall and Atlanta for the winter.

The projected budget for the event is \$471,000, of which \$295,800 has been raised. Additional fundraising efforts aimed at foundations, corporations and individuals are needed to make up the balance.

Crown Prince appeals to Arabs, Muslims to join in shaping world order

IRBID (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan issued an appeal to the Arab and Muslim nations to rise up and close their ranks so that they can participate in formulating the new world order, rather than leaving it to others to shape the world for them and determine their future.

"As we stand at the threshold of the 21st century we can invoke the great principles of our Arab heritage and its humanitarian values to join other nations in fighting off backwardness. We should continue the fight to establish right and justice, and depend on our promising youth who can lead the nation towards attaining its objectives," said the Crown Prince in an address delivered on his behalf by Speaker of the Senate Ahmad Lawzi at the opening of the Second Congress of Distinguished Students of Arab Universities.

"Our keenness to safeguard and protect human rights has motivated all our endeavours at regional and international forums for the implementation of agreement and charters on human rights," said the Crown Prince.

Arab citizens of Palestine, southern Lebanon, Somalia, Iraq, Libya and Sudan remain our first and foremost concern at the moment, because they still suffer under the yoke of occupation, or are exposed to divisions, deprivation of basic human rights and denial of the right to food and clothing among other things, Prince Hassan continued.

He said the Muslim people of the Bosnia-Herzegovina and those in the newly-independent Islamic states in Central Asia "are also on our mind" because they are involved in endless conflicts.

"In our view, human rights are indivisible and can be measured through a single criteria, as this has always been the tradition in our faith throughout history," said the Crown Prince.

"We appeal to the world community which is now shaping a new world order to come to the help of the weak and to care for the deprived so that the new order would be based on humanitarian justice, not on the element of force or oppression," called Prince Hassan.

At the outset of the meeting, held at Yarmouk University, President Ali Mahafzah said that the delegates from 30 Arab universities are taking part in this five-day meeting, which comes at a time when differences among Arab states are rife and joint Arab action is on the retreat.

This situation, said Dr. Mahafzah, has encouraged the enemies of the Arab nation to pursue their aggression on Arab states, exposing tens of thousands of citizens to starvation, homelessness and deprivation.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Iraqi artists Nashaat and Shawkat Al Alousi at Alfa Art Gallery; includes 30 paintings depicting popular life and national scenery in Iraq, as well as Arabic calligraphy.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Eshbilla Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre. The paintings depict Jordanian-Palestinian heritage, Jordanian antiquities, Arab Jerusalem, rural life and natural scenery.
- ★ Exhibition of a new collection of art works by Princess Wijdan Ali at The Gallery, Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by 25 Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition by Iraqi artists Mohammad Hussein Judi and Shawkat Al Alousi at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILM

- ★ Feature film entitled "The Love Bug" at 6 p.m. at the American Centre.

JERUSALEM FESTIVAL

- ★ Exhibition of paintings, posters, Palestinian costumes, books and other items on the Holy City of Jerusalem at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- ★ Exhibition of books on various subjects at Al Hashmich Plaza, downtown Amman.

Bank strike averted

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A general strike by nearly 450 employees of the Arab Land Bank was averted Saturday after a reported agreement between the employees of the bank, represented by the General Union of Workers in Banks and Insurance Companies on the one hand, and the Arab Land Bank management on the other.

The bank employees had threatened to strike to impress their repeated demands for extra pay and other benefits but the union has succeeded in working out a compromise agreement, according to Haidar Rashid, the president of the union.

In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Rashid said that under the terms of the agreement, witnessed by Labour Minister Khaled Ghazwa, bank employees will get 18 per cent raise on their basic salary or no less than JD 20 each with the understanding that this raise should not prejudice the annual increment for each employee.

The agreement also provides for raising to JD 20 from JD 14 the wife allowance paid each month to married male employees. It also stipulates that the bank management, which runs 20 branches around the country, should introduce an amendment to its personnel regulations by January 1994 at the latest by which those working under contract would follow the rest of the employees' working system.

The agreement, which will go into effect on Sept. 13 requires the management to grant bank employees soft loans for housing purposes. The bank employees last week held a meeting during which Mr. Rashid voiced the union's full backing of the employees' demands, noting that unless the management relented the employees would have no alternative but to strike.

Banking sources told the Jordan Times that 800 employees of another bank, the National Bank who were close to an agreement with their bank management.

They said the agreement would be almost similar to the agreement for the Arab Land Bank and its employees.

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Full agenda for the Swiss meeting

THE DECISION of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to hold an international conference in Geneva at the end of August to examine the recent blatant violations of the humanitarian law is a timely and pressing move in view of rampant mistreatment of man in times of armed conflicts. It is no coincidence that the convening of such a world meeting, under the auspices of the Swiss government and the ICRC, is taking place in the wake of the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna last June since human rights and humanitarian law are two dimensions of basically the same subject. Strictly speaking, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their two protocols codified and adopted in 1977 constitute the contemporary backbone of applicable humanitarian law. These bodies of international law are normally inapplicable in times of peace, when human rights law starts operating. Recent events in the world, however, have illustrated the need to fuse the two objectives since there is at best a thin line that separates crimes against humanity and war crimes on the one hand, and grave and systematic human rights violations on the other. The Vienna human rights gathering highlighted the indivisibility of the two aspects of human rights and prompted the ICRC and the Bern government to move in the direction of holding a high-level world conference on humanitarian law and its organic link with human rights law as reflected in treaties and conventions.

Uppermost on the mind of the organisers of the upcoming Geneva meeting is of course the horrific war crimes in rump Yugoslavia. In spite of the fact that Serbia and Croatia had acceded to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their two protocols, their forces contravened almost every segment of applicable humanitarian law. Bosnia too committed violations, but to a much lesser extent. The utter failure of the current humanitarian law to stop states from violating this body of international norms has obviously prompted ICRC and the Swiss government to call for the Geneva meeting with a view to reviewing the shortcomings of the existing law and the available machineries for their implementation. On top of the agenda should be the issue of ethnic cleansing which the Serbs have applied with barbaric determination and force against Bosnians and Croats. To be sure, there are also other urgent topics that need to be debated and acted upon. Additionally, it would be wrong to presume that humanitarian law is being flouted only in former Yugoslavia. In order to have a universal application of international law in this context, a wider outlook needs to be adopted.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE ATTACK launched by the Lebanese resistance forces against the Israeli troops in southern Lebanon, resulting in the death of nine Israeli soldiers represented a true victory for the steadfast people, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday. The attack, which came close on the heels of Israeli aggression in southern Lebanon proved to the world that the arrogant Zionist enemy can by no means humiliate the Arab Nation, said the paper. The daring attack, which came immediately after the Israelis had completed their last mission of destroying Lebanese homes and killing innocent civilians, shows that arrogance and aggression cannot last, it added. The only thing the Israeli tanks and planes can do, said the daily, is to destroy and kill, but they cannot stifle the spirit of resistance and put an end to the struggle for freedom. The paper said that all other empires which history tells us were founded on bloodshed like those created by Britain, France, Italy, Portugal and finally the United States have ended in total failure. It added that the United States, which is the sole superpower, had tasted defeat at the hands of the Vietnamese people and the American crimes committed against humanity in Somalia and Iraq would never go unpunished. The paper said that the Israelis now stand helpless vis-a-vis the Lebanese resistance forces despite the American-made weapons and the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance.

SUDAN BECAME the fifth Muslim nation to be added to the list of seven countries considered "terrorist" states by American standards, said Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily Saturday. The writer said that in the U.S. view Israel is not one of the "terrorist" countries despite the fact that its establishment and its continued existence is based on acts of terrorism and continued occupation of Arab lands. It is not for the United States to classify world countries as terrorist or otherwise since the U.S. itself is a terrorist state committing along with Israel, its strategic ally, atrocities everywhere, said the writer. He said that it is noticed that Washington is selecting its enemies dubbing them as terrorist state simply because they are Muslim states and not willing to serve American interests. The United Nations or other organisations, like Amnesty International, working fairly and justly, could possibly discover which countries are abusing human rights or encouraging acts of terrorism, but this is not the task of the United States, he said the writer.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Mideast at the bottom of Germany's list of priorities

Germany stands out as the friendliest Western power to Jordan in particular and to the Arab World in general. History is of course a factor, because Germany, unlike other Western powers, never colonised any part of the Arab World, and the German army never spilled Arab blood.

Economy is another factor. Germany is a major trading partner of all Arab countries, and was always generous in extending financial and technical aid especially to Jordan. During the Gulf crisis and war, Germany paid Jordan hundreds of millions of deutsche marks as a grant when the funds were badly needed.

No wonder that the national German unity, three years ago, was hailed and celebrated in Jordan and through the entire Arab World. The unity was seen as evidence that nations divided against their will by occupying powers will sooner or later restore their national unity and fulfill their aspirations to live in one nation-state.

On a recent visit to Germany, I discovered that perhaps we should not expect too much financial aid because Germany has other urgent priorities which we must understand. The priorities of the German foreign policy at this time are: France and the European Community at the top, followed by America and the NATO alliance as a close second, East Europe and Russia third, and, the fourth and last priority, the Mediterranean and the Middle East problem. The Arab-Israeli conflict and the peace process are definitely on the German agenda, but at a lower level. Mr. Von Hoessle, head of the Near East Division in the Federal Foreign Office, believes that Jordan has the right to expect debt reduction in the next meeting of Paris Club and that Jordan is a key-factor of stability in the region.

Mr. Hans Nibues, director of the state central bank, explained the strict policies of the Bundesbank to secure the stability of the DM as a store of value, and to prevent inflation.

Mr. Magnus Brandau of the Economic Working Group of the

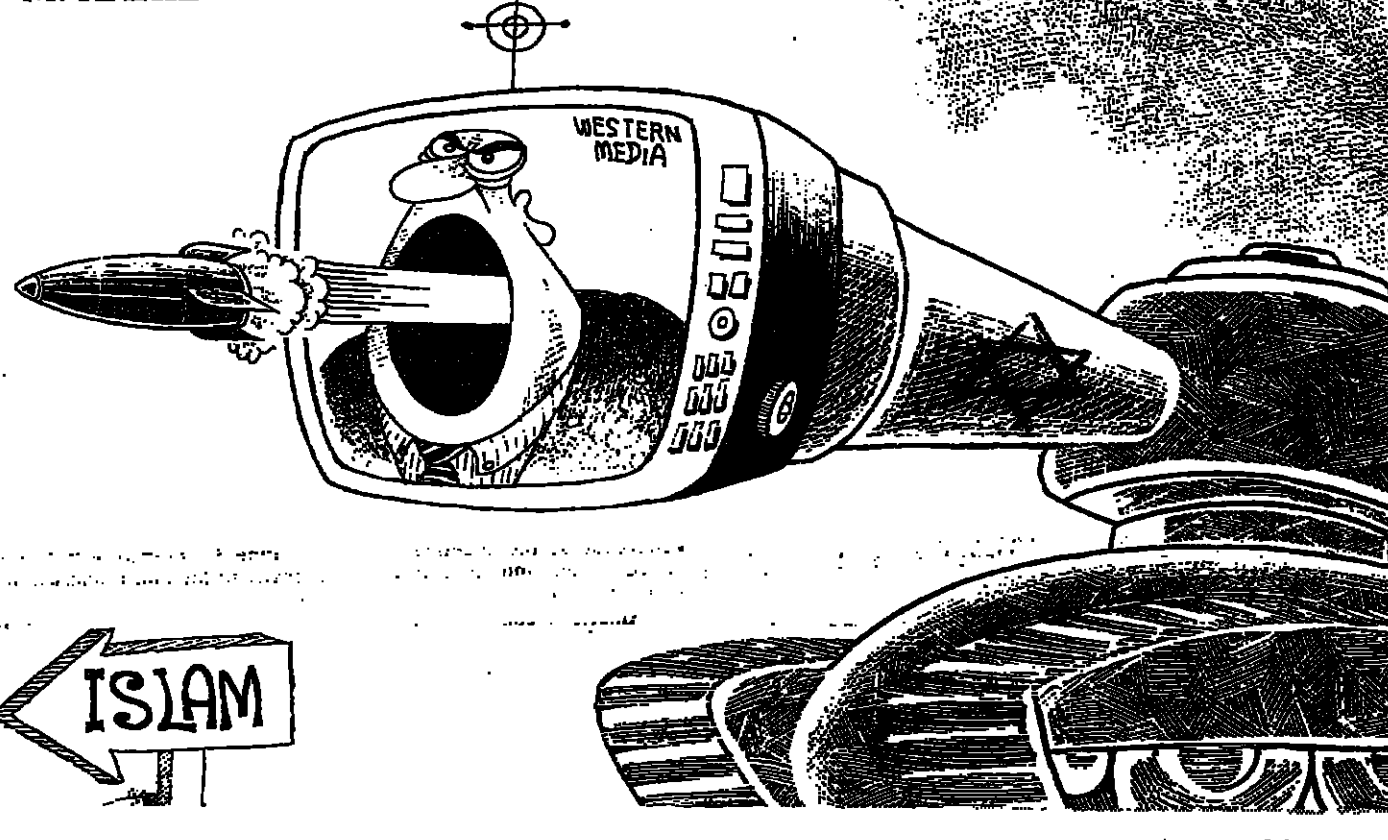
ruling Christian Democratic Union (CDU) highlighted the salient differences in approach between his party and its major rival the Social Democrats. The market can be influenced through supply and demand, he said. "We concentrate on the supply side to motivate production; and they (Social Democrats) concentrate on the demand side to improve the lot of consumers and labour." The first set of policies, he added, includes incentives, privatisation, lower taxes and reduced government. The second set includes redistribution of income, higher taxes and more social securities.

Germany has a system of its own whereby every party is granted public funds to finance an autonomous foundation for development and promotion of democracy. Mr. Karl Joachim Schmidt, from Konrad-Adenauer Foundation, and Dr. Peter Hunseler, from Friedrich-Ebert Foundation, were eloquent in promoting the philosophy of their respective foundations, which represent an intellectual back-up to the political parties concerned.

German unity, which is a source of national pride, was not without problems, which are still not resolved. The East Germans are deeply disappointed. They were promised to reach the standard of living in the West within two years, but the promise was not kept and unemployment reached 40 per cent in certain quarters of the "new territories". The West Germans argue that their Eastern brothers want too much, too soon, without an effort on their part. They see East Germany as a burden, and are not ready to invest in its development beyond the limits of financial feasibility and economic returns.

From the look of things, it seems that after 10 years of uninterrupted rule of the CDU, Germany is ripe for change, which may take place in the forthcoming general elections, scheduled for 1994.

M. KAHIL



Mossad script sets U.S. against Islam

By Joseph Brewda

"The terrorists are coming and no Americans will be safe," reads the back cover of *Target America*, the book that describes itself as the "full story of who declared a holy war against America and Canada, and why." The author, Yossef Bodansky, is identified as an "international terrorism expert" who has been "for more than four years director of the House Republican Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare." The book's introduction is provided by the chairman of the task force, Cong. Bill McCollum, Republican from Florida.

Left unsaid anywhere in this book is that Bodansky is the former editor of the Israeli Air Force magazine, or that he was implicated in the Jonathan Pollard spy scandal. Pollard had been arrested after being caught red-handed stealing U.S. secret documents for Israel in 1985; even Israeli reporters admit that Bodansky, who had frequently been seen with Pollard, may have been Pollard's confidant.

"The explosion that shook the World Trade Centre, and the rest of America, was only the beginning... a prelude to an escalation in Islamist terrorism in the United States and Canada," Bodansky begins. "The terrorist-sponsoring states led by Iran, Syria, and Sudan consider international terrorism an indispensable instrument of state policy," we are told; "moreover, the decline of the war in Afghanistan enabled scores of 'Afghans' to redirect their attention and zeal to Islamist causes, from Kashmir to Bosnia-Herzegovina, from Algeria to the United States and Canada." Chapter titles include "Radical Islam against the U.S.," "The News System of International Terrorism," "Iran and the New Muslim World Order."

Naturally, Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, the blind Egyptian cleric from Jersey City, supposedly the "master-mind of the World Trade Centre bombing and other terrorist plots, looms large in the book. According to Bodansky, Rahman, is "the senior leader of the Armed Islamic Movement in the U.S." But nowhere in his

"full story" on Islamic terrorism do we find an explanation of just how this "fearsome" Rahman managed to get an entry visa into the U.S., and then a permanent residency permit or green card.

The claim that Islam represents the new enemy of the West, after the demise of the Soviet Union, has since been made by Israeli officials and journalists. For example, on Feb. 24, two days before the World Trade Centre bombing, then-Israeli President Chaim Herzog reported that Israel was engaged in a "major battle against Iranian-controlled Islamic fundamentalism." "It's true that there's no Soviet Union now threatening," he explained, "but there are all sorts of Islamic states like Iran and Iraq and so forth which could upset the balance in the world." After the bombing, the U.S. media were dominated by "experts" all of Israeli origin or affiliation, who "explained" this new threat to U.S. national security. Amongst these experts we find Uri Dan, the authorised biographer of Gen. Ariel Sharon and Cable News Network correspondent, former Jerusalem Post scribbler, Wolf Blitzer.

Then there were the June 23 arrests of several of Rahman's followers for allegedly planning to blow up the U.N. and kill Secretary General Boutros Ghali and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. But as with the earlier FBI and media claims in respect to the logistics and planning of the World Trade Centre blast, the proffered plans of the new Islamic plotters are impossible to believe.

The publication of this cheap, widely distributed book is simply part of this Israeli propaganda campaign. Shapolsky Publishers often puts out books to such effect.

That terrorism in Europe and the United States may be making a comeback, however, cannot be discounted. But who runs it? An actual terror wave was signalled on June 24, when Turkish embassies, missions, and businesses in 29 European cities were simultaneously attacked with some offices briefly occupied and hostages taken. The assailants, the Kurdish Workers Party, like most

Mideast terrorist organisations, emphatically including many of the "Islamic" ones, are covertly run by Britain and Israel.

After all, Ayatollah Khomeini was put into power by the Carter administration's National Security Council, British intelligence, British Petroleum, and the Israeli Mossad. As the Iran-Contra affair, amidst other massive evidence, makes clear, their support continued. The same crowd funnelled thousands of Arabs into Pakistan in the 1980s to be trained by the U.S. Special Forces and the Mossad, and they were then fed into the Afghan resistance. This Afghan resistance is now the alleged source of the "terrorists," which Bodansky et al. claim is now preparing its attack on the United States. As for Rahman, he will be extradited to Egypt as part of a broader Anglo-American/Israeli plan to destabilise the Mubarak regime. Anglo-American policy, it seems is either to install a new Khomeini into power in Egypt or else provoke an "anti-fundamentalist" military coup. Either way, Israel can continue to depict itself as a vital strategic asset of the West and the region's only true democracy.

Profile of an Israeli liar

Yossef Bodansky was the editor of the Israeli Air Force's official magazine in the 1970s. At some point prior to the 1979 overthrow of the Shah of Iran, Bodansky emigrated to the U.S., where he resided as an academic at Johns Hopkins University. At the same time, Bodansky became the "technical editor" of the newsletter of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs. JINSA was then, and still is, edited by Shoshana Bryen, wife of Reagan administration Defence Department official Steven Bryen. The newsletter is dedicated to showing the vital need the U.S. has for militarily supporting Israel. Other founders of the publication include Richard Perle, who was later a Reagan administration assistant defence secretary; and Michael Ledeen, a close associate of former CIA deputy director for covert opera-

tions Theodore Shackley. Both Perle and Bryen had been formally investigated by the U.S. government for spying on behalf of Israel.

In the early years of the Reagan administration, Bodansky was hired by Perle and Bryen to be a consultant to the Defence Department. This was an unusual arrangement, since Bodansky was, and presumably still is, an Israeli citizen. Bodansky worked for the "Technology Transfer Branch," which examined whether technology transfers to such countries as Iraq, Iran, etc., were permissible.

In 1985, shortly after Naval Intelligence employee Jonathan Pollard was caught spying for Israel, Bodansky dropped out of sight. According to well-informed sources, Bodansky was one of Pollard's controllers, and had, they say, always operated as an agent of LEKEM, the Israeli Defence Ministry's technological espionage branch. Bodansky had reportedly originally been sent to the United States as part of Israel's plans to acquire the technology to build the Lavi jet fighter, a modified version of the U.S. F-16. The Israeli Labour Party newspaper *Davar* reported that Bodansky was tied to Pollard.

A few months later, Bodansky found employment at "Mid-Atlantic Research," a Baltimore consulting firm directed by former British Royal Air Force intelligence officer John Rees (also tied to the FBI and the Israeli lobby's Anti-Defamation League); former British intelligence official and spy novelist Robert Moss; and then *Washington Times* editor-in-chief Arnaud de Borchgrave. Simultaneously, Bodansky began occasionally writing articles on national security themes for the *Washington Times*. Bodansky also became a reporter for *Jane's Defence* monthly of Britain. By 1989, he became director of the House Republican Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare, where he reports on the alleged Islamic threat to America — Executive Intelligence Review.

Germans struggle to formulate new foreign policy

By Tom Heneghan
Reuter

BONN — With unusual unanimity, Bonn's main political parties are all searching for ways to reformulate foreign policy to allow Germany to play a larger role in the post-cold war world. Clear decisions have been pending since unification in 1990, when Bonn won back its sovereignty and had to start thinking of itself as a normal middle-sized power.

But decades of self-restraint are hard to shake off and some of Bonn's attempts so far to do so — especially its drive to recognise Croatia in 1991 — have aroused deep suspicion and resentment abroad.

With every month bringing challenges Bonn never had to face before, pressure is mounting for a clearer line on issues from international peace-keeping missions to Europe's future.

An unprecedented wave of 19 local and national elections also looms next year, threatening to swamp the country with domestic issues and block out foreign affairs.

Rising to the challenge, the ruling Christian Democrats (CDU), their Free Democrat partners (FDP) and the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) have all planned high-level foreign policy discussions over the next four weeks.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl has also scheduled a first meeting next with the new SPD leader, Rudolf Scharping, to seek a compromise on Germany's future military role.

"They're trying to get the foreign policy discussion out of the way before 1994," said Angelika Volle, editor of the foreign affairs journal *Europa Archiv*. "Once it comes to 1994, they won't have time to discuss anything in depth."

Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel has made his FDP party's foreign policy seminar on Sept. 10 into an international event by inviting his British, French and Polish counterparts to join in the discussions.

Next week, in their first meeting since Europe's currency crisis Mr. Kinkel will host French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe in Dresden and Mr. Kohl will meet Prime Minister Edouard Balladur

in Bonn. Although the turbulence in Europe's exchange rate mechanism (ERM) severely strained relations between Bonn and Paris, Mr. Kohl may have more luck smoothing ruffled feathers with Mr. Balladur than with his own countryman Scharping, diplomats say.

The new SPD leader tried this month to make an end-run around his party's entrenched pacifist wing with a proposal that would allow German troops to take part in all United Nations peace missions but not in Gulf war-type offensives.

But his policy draft, which the SPD leadership will discuss in sessions next week and in mid-September, caused an uproar within the fractious party and has since been watered down.

Although not yet final, it looks like the new SPD policy on deploying troops abroad will be only slightly looser than the old doctrine that Germans could only fight in self-defence within NATO and perform humanitarian work outside it.

Mr. Kohl has been trying to amend Bonn's anti-militarist 1949 constitution to allow German troops to take full part in U.N. missions abroad, even if this includes fighting, but needs SPD support for the two-thirds vote required in parliament.

Unable to break this gridlock, Bonn has had to turn to Germany's supreme court to rule on the constitutionality of steps like sending troops to Somalia. The court refused to stop the deployment but has not yet ruled on its legality.

Mr. Kohl recently reminded his rivals that campaigning time would soon be upon them and the voters might punish both big parties for their failure to define the country's new role.

"I would like to discuss basic issues in international security policy and maybe even make a few decisions together in the coming weeks and months and before the 1994 election year," he said in one interview on German television.

"We will have to talk about whether we're walking down a dead end street. That applies for our image in public as well. We have to be able to take decisions."

Clinton uses jogging as lobbying tool

By Peter Ramjing
Reuter

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton is trying to dispel the notion that politicians are running in place and is using his morning jogs as a lobbying tool while Washington's powerful line up for the chance to be his running mate.

It may not be the most glamorous photo opportunity, but a chance to huff and puff with Mr. Clinton on his runs has become one of the hottest tickets in town and added a new twist to the way the president does business.

Breaking out of the walls of his Oval Office, Mr. Clinton has taken to the streets to twist arms in less formal — but more physically trying — surroundings.

Nowhere was this technique more visible than in the recent battle over the president's economic reform package, which cleared the Senate only after Vice President Al Gore cast a tie-breaking vote.

Democratic Senator Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut won a chance to jog with Mr. Clinton simply by endorsing the controversial plan before the vote. "I announced it and this is my reward," Mr. Lieberman cracked as he limbered up on the White House south lawn before taking off on an almost six-kilometre run with Mr. Clinton.

Democratic Senator Max Baucus of Montana got the coveted call after publicly questioning a proposed hike in the petrol tax. After his run with Mr. Clinton, Mr. Baucus announced his vote was in the bag.

"Taxes and running," the senator said when asked what the two had talked about.

Mr. Clinton has also crossed partylines, inviting Republican Richard Riordan for a morning run when the then-newly elected mayor of Los Angeles dropped by the White House to confer with Chief of Staff Thomas McLarty.

But Mr. Riordan quickly tired and was twice forced to catch his breath by retreating into the staff van that trails Mr. Clinton on his jogging forays.

As the White House entourage neared press photographers wait-

ing for a chance to snap pictures, however, Mr. Riordan leaped out of the van and trotted up to the president's side.

But much to his embarrassment, the news media back home in Los Angeles shunned the pictures of Mr. Riordan jogging alongside Mr. Clinton in favour of those showing him trying to outfox the photographers.

Those who have jogged with the 90-plus kg president say he moves surprisingly quickly for his size.

"He starts out slow and builds momentum," says Mr. Baucus.

The president is "rather competitive," added Democratic Congressman Mike Kreidler of Washington State, a veteran runner who averaged 60 km a week. "He didn't mind trying to show he has endurance."

But Mr. Clinton has changed his pace when diplomacy called. On an official visit to Seoul in July, Mr. Clinton and South Korean President Kim Young-Sam went for a 30-minute run on the picturesque grounds of the presidential blue house.

South Korean officials were concerned that their 65-year-old leader would not be able to keep up with the 46-year-old Clinton. But their worries were laid to rest when Mr. Clinton agreed to slow down.

The leaders "showed themselves to be in step with each other," the Korean government later said of the jog in an official news release. "The two leaders chatted as they ran side-by-side in a decidedly relaxed manner."

Not all of the president's running mates are government big-wigs, however. He's run with singer Judy Collins, Olympic gold medalist Florence Griffith-Joyner, Boston marathon winners, wheelchair "joggers" and dozens of ordinary citizens.

Mr. Clinton usually runs from the White House to the U.S. Capitol and back, about a five-km jaunt. He says he averages more than five jogs a week, plodding along at a rate of about eight to nine minutes per 1.6 km.

Even in a city jaded by the constant comings and goings of the high-and-mighty, a presidential jog can be quite a spectacle.

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Uncleared landmines — a hidden killer and global problem

By Russell Dybvik

WASHINGTON — About 150 people, including numerous children, are killed or maimed each week by some of the more than 80 million unexploded landmines scattered in 62 countries worldwide, says a new State Department report.

The 260-page report, entitled "Hidden killers: The global problem of unexploded landmines," is the most comprehensive study ever made on the subject. It was delivered to Congress Aug. 4.

According to the report, more than 67 million landmines have been laid in the past 15 years and the number grows daily. While there is no quick solution to the problem, the United States, with its advanced technology and expertise, is moving to help other countries deal with their own landmine problems.

"Locating unexploded landmines is a labour-intensive, slow, dangerous, low-technology operation," the report points out, and the process of destroying them is even more difficult and "extremely dangerous."

The State Department leads a U.S. inter-agency effort called the Demining Coordination Group (DCG) to train and equip local citizens to remove and destroy landmines and to encourage the development of new counter-mine technology. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the office of the Secretary of Defense, the joint Chiefs of Staff, and selected Defense Department landmine experts are also members of the group.

Less than four months ago, the U.S. army completed its first month-long demining training course for foreign instructors at the school of the Americas in Fort Benning, Georgia. Fifteen instructors from various Latin American countries were trained to supervise an Organisation of American States (OAS) demining programme in Nicaragua at a cost of about \$4,000 per student.

While the United States has "tremendous training and technological assets that could be brought to bear on the demining problem," the State Department report says, U.S. assistance will have to be conducted with limited resources, and under the parameters adopted by the Demining

Coordination Group. U.S. military personnel will not physically remove landmines in other countries.

The U.S. government can make its greatest contribution towards solving the global problem of unexploded landmines "by providing assistance, technical expertise, equipment and technology and diplomatic efforts to restrict the sale and use of landmines," the report says.

The United States has allocated more than \$9 million for demining projects in Afghanistan, Mozambique, Somalia, Cambodia and Central America during the current fiscal year, and, during the next 12 months, the State Department hopes to provide more than \$17 million for demining programmes in 18 countries.

"These funds will be used to fund training and equipment purchases that will allow afflicted nations to remove landmines themselves," the report said, although some money will be allocated for hiring expert contractors to demine certain specific objectives, such as road systems.

The report says it is impossible to estimate precisely the number of unexploded landmines laid around the world because, by their nature, mines are extremely difficult to locate and many mines are specifically designed to lie hidden underground, undetected.

"Perhaps the true horror of landmines is that they can render the land on which populations depend for sustenance uninhabitable for years, perhaps generations," the report says, noting for example that an average of 12 people per year are still injured in the Netherlands by World War II landmines.

While laying mine fields has long been an effective defensive military technique, the report notes that during the past two decades terrorists and guerrilla groups have increasingly used the devices as an offensive weapon to disrupt the political and economic infrastructure of a state. Government forces meanwhile use them to protect or defend key economic infrastructure.

The economic impact of unexploded landmines is significant.

Farmland cannot be used until civilians have confidence that mines have been cleared from both the land and water delivery systems, the report points out, while only a few mines can disrupt transportation systems and power grids.

"Landmines inhibit the repatriation of refugees, hinder economic reconstruction and development and provide a continuing element of chaos in countries surviving for political stability," the report says.

Local health care systems in most countries are inadequate to provide the kind of care needed by the victims of exploding mines. "There are currently more than 20,000 amputees in Angola who are victims of landmines," the report notes, adding that "the surgical facilities and the medicines required to treat mine victims on this scale simply do not exist in many countries."

Africa has the largest number of landmines, with roughly 18 to 30 million mines laid in 18 countries, the report says. One-third of African countries have a problem with unexploded landmines, and the situation is worst in Angola, Mozambique, Somalia and Sudan. In Mozambique, all of the country's 28 major road systems are blocked by unexploded landmines, according to U.N. figures.

Between 15 and 23 million mines have been laid in East Asia, the report says, noting that the most serious unexploded landmine problem may be in Cambodia. The Cambodian Mine Action Centre, established by the United Nations to coordinate demining operations, has found sizable mine fields in more than half of the country.

Difficulties in demining have slowed the repatriation of Cambodian refugees from a planned 10,000 each week to just over 1,000 per week because much of the farmland intended for their use is unusable because of mines and may stay that way for decades, the report says. There are more than 30,000 amputees in Cambodia, most of them victims of landmines, according to data supplied by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Assessing the seriousness of the situation in other parts of the world, the report notes that in Afghanistan, tens of thousands of people have been killed or maimed by mines laid by the former Soviet Army, the Mujahideen, and the former communist government of Afghanistan during that country's protracted conflict. More than 10 million landmines remain in Afghanistan, as a major impediment to the repatriation of the remaining two million Afghan refugees now in Pakistan and 1.5 million in Iran. Millions of so-called "butterfly mines" were air-dropped during the Afghan conflict. These small, plastic, colored devices frequently are "objects of curiosity" for children who are maimed or killed when they attempt to pick them up, the report notes.

In Somalia, landmines are strewn around wells, military camps and installations and on primary and secondary roads. Because there are few existing maps and other records to locate the landmines, humanitarian relief efforts in the country have been severely hampered. An American soldier and a civilian construction engineer were injured when their truck hit a landmine on a suburban road in Mogadishu on Aug. 4.

An estimated 17 to 24 million mines litter the Middle East, the report says. Most are located in Kuwait, Iraq and Iran and on both sides of Israel's borders with Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. Kuwait is faced with one of the most massive demining problems in the world as it attempts to find and remove the almost seven million mines laid by Iraqi occupation forces in 1990.

In Latin America, there are estimated 300,000 to one million landmines scattered in eight countries. The majority are in the Central American countries of Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica and Guatemala.

U.N. estimates put the number of unexploded mines in Bosnia-Herzegovina at roughly 1.5 million, and the problem there continues to worsen, the report says — United States Information Agency.

U.S. spied on allies in World War II, documents show

By Kim I. Mills
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States spied on its allies in the closing months of World War II, intercepting diplomatic messages that described everything from French irritation with American policy to Soviet overtures to Mexico, newly declassified documents show.

More than 800 pages of so-called "magic intercepts" detail growing American concern about Soviet expansion and the germination of an intensive spying effort that would eventually become a hallmark of the cold war.

"The American delegates are now beginning to speak of communism as they once spoke of Nazism and are invoking continental solidarity and hemispheric defence against it," Venezuela's foreign minister cabled after a joint conference with Assistant Secretary of State John A. Rockefeller. The encounter came during the historic April 1945 meeting in San Francisco that gave birth to the United Nations.

The papers — released to a historian as a result of a lawsuit — also chronicle the manoeuvrings by Britain, France, the United States and the Soviet Union to divide up Europe and the Middle East in 1945. And they also show a nascent Soviet Union jockeying for power in Europe and Asia.

A Turkish diplomat in Moscow reported that on April 23, 1945, two days after the signing of a treaty creating a Soviet-backed Polish government, the Soviets censored statements by leaders that no opposition parties would be tolerated and that some Polish army officers were executed for disloyalty.

"The Russian government, which has been able to find out here that it is not surrounded by universal sympathy, is obsessed by the idea of an anti-Soviet coalition," said a French cable intercepted during the San Francisco U.N. meeting.

A document summarising intercepts from officials of Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela at the meeting concluded "a determination to resist Soviet Russia is growing among the American countries, including the United States."

Earlier that year, the Mexican ambassador to the Soviet Union

reported a meeting with Josef Stalin in the Kremlin where "American problems were extensively discussed," along with "the possibilities of closer cooperation between Mexico and the USSR at the end of the war."

The messages were intercepted by U.S. agents who tapped into telegraph cables or monitored radio signals. American analysts then broke the secret codes.

Among other countries whose messages were intercepted: Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria,

Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Greece, Iran, Italy, Lebanon, Liberia, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland, Syria, Turkey, Uruguay and Yugoslavia.

The documents, first reported by the New York Times last week, also provide new evidence suggesting the Japanese military was willing to surrender months before the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945.

"Since the situation is clearly recognised to be hopeless, large sections of the Japanese armed forces would not regard with disfavour an American request for capitulation even if the terms were hard," a German diplomat reported to Berlin after talking with a high-level Japanese naval officer on May 5, 1945. Three days later, Germany itself surrendered.

Gar Alperovitz, a fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies who sued for the papers under the Freedom of Information Act, said such intercepts provided additional evidence that the allies knew they had won the war in Japan before the bombs were dropped.

"They were reporting back to their home capitals the collapse of Japan and the likelihood of surrender and we were reading this material and passing it on to the top government officials," he said.

"So it is a powerful, additional intelligence source which indicates the same thing that seems clear in all the other documents — that the war was essentially over."

Mr. Alperovitz had requested more than 900 pages of magic intercepts. For three years, the National Security Agency denied his request, claiming the release would cause "grave damage" to national security.

"At this point, it's ridiculous after the cold war that they're holding back 50-year-old documents," Mr. Alperovitz said. "They might be a threat to somebody's reputation but not to national security."

The documents also show that U.S. intelligence officers were reading the private communications of French Gen. Charles de Gaulle that detailed French bitterness about the United States' refusal to aid their conquest of Indochina.

It wasn't until after President Franklin D. Roosevelt died that the United States approved France's activities there — but largely to ensure France's solidarity against the Soviet Union. Missing from the released documents are any communications from Britain or the Soviet Union. But they contain enough information from other countries' diplomats to reveal how the Soviets wanted to divide the post-war world.

Excerpts from World War II diplomatic dispatches

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some excerpts from more than 800 pages of diplomatic messages intercepted by U.S. spies during 1945:

On Feb. 23, the Swiss minister to Japan described chaos, great losses from air raids, no transportation, shelters "ridiculous."

"When the American advance to Manila was broadcast, the Japanese found out that they had naively underestimated the enemy. The defeat of Germany seems certain but the Japanese are desperately clinging to the hope that the Germans will hold out... in order to lighten Japan's burden."

The Portuguese minister to Germany — who in January had complained about lack of electricity and food in Berlin — in February said a group of refugees from the occupied regions nearby had taken up residence in his castle outside the city. "Thus producing an unpleasant promiscuity."

"Humanitarian sentiments prevent us from objecting to the entrance of these people, who otherwise would die of cold at our door during the night."

A Greek diplomat reported on a conversation he had with French Gen. Charles de Gaulle Feb. 7, 1945: "A south Slav state will probably be formed, but it is doubtful whether such a state can last long, since the Serb element — one of the most virile in the Balkan peninsula — is opposed to the idea. It is not certain that Moscow favours an all-inclusive south Slav state. Russia may favour the reconstruction of Yugoslavia in the form of a separate federal state which would not compromise Bulgaria's independence, but it is very likely that the Soviets have not yet made up their minds one way or the other."

The French foreign minister visited England from Feb. 25-27 and met with Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden. "I revealed to Mr. Eden our views concerning the future status of the Rhineland. The foreign minister did not conceal from me the fact that our plan for the permanent establishment of a zone subject to the exclusive control of France would give rise to strong objections from the Americans who envisage, it seems, a uniformly international regime."

The Swiss minister to Japan on the situation there June 26: "Japan does not expect to win, but is still hoping to escape defeat by prolonging the war long enough to exhaust her enemies. Many eagerly desire the landing of the Americans in Japan proper, since they think it would be the last chance to inflict upon the Americans a defeat serious enough to make them come to terms."

June 30, French Secretary General Jacques Focquereux Duparc, envoy to the San Francisco meeting to form the United Nations, reports: "The 'first concern' of the French government — to see France emerge again as a great power — was achieved and the charter puts France on the same plane legally as the United States, Russia and England."

As U.S. seeks missing airmen, bombs kill in Laos

By David Brunsstrom
Reuters

PLAIN OF JARS, Laos — While the United States spends millions of dollars to account for air crew missing in Laos, the bombs they dropped in a war which ended two decades ago still kill and maim dozens of people a year.

Western aid agencies say that as well as searching for bones on Laotian hillsides, the U.S. government should dig into its pockets to fund a bomb disposal programme to help make the countryside safe for its impoverished inhabitants.

The Plain of Jars, a remote highland area of northern Laos named after the hundreds of ancient stone carved bowls, is one of the most heavily bombed regions of South East Asia during the Indochina war.

From 1964-1973, U.S. planes dropped over two million tonnes of bombs on Laos, more than the total used by U.S. forces during World War II.

Evidence of the onslaught, long kept secret from Americans, is everywhere in Xieng Khoang province, home of the legendary Countess craters from bomber

attacks can be seen from the air, scarring hillsides, paddy fields and sites of obliterated villages. On the ground, dozens of live bombs and shells lie in and around settlements where ragged children play.

By far the most obvious signs of the war, which destroyed nearly every town and village in the province, are thousands of steel canisters that housed hundreds of fist-sized bomblets the Laotians call "bombies".

Local residents use the green two-metre long containers as fence posts, stilt for houses, pig troughs or flower beds, but countless numbers of their deadly cargo still lie hidden, live and dangerous.

They can be detonated by a sharp blow from a hoe, plough or stick when farmers plant rice, or simply when handled.

Since 1975, the Xieng Khoang hospital alone has recorded 926 injuries and 38 deaths from left-over ordnance. In the March-April rice-growing season it had 12 bombie injuries.

Aid workers and Laotian officials say actual casualties are far higher. Poor communications mean many victims never reach hospital.

Many are children, unaware of the danger of bomblets, most of which resemble pineapples, or guavas, another tropical fruit.

Nam Keua, a 62-year-old farmer near the small town of Muang Kham, said bomblets killed four young ethnic Hmong in a nearby village recently. He stood with his buffalo by eight rusted American bombs lying in a field by a river.

Locals brought them there last month to extract the explosives so they could sell the casings to traders. A man was killed when one bomb exploded during this delicate operation.

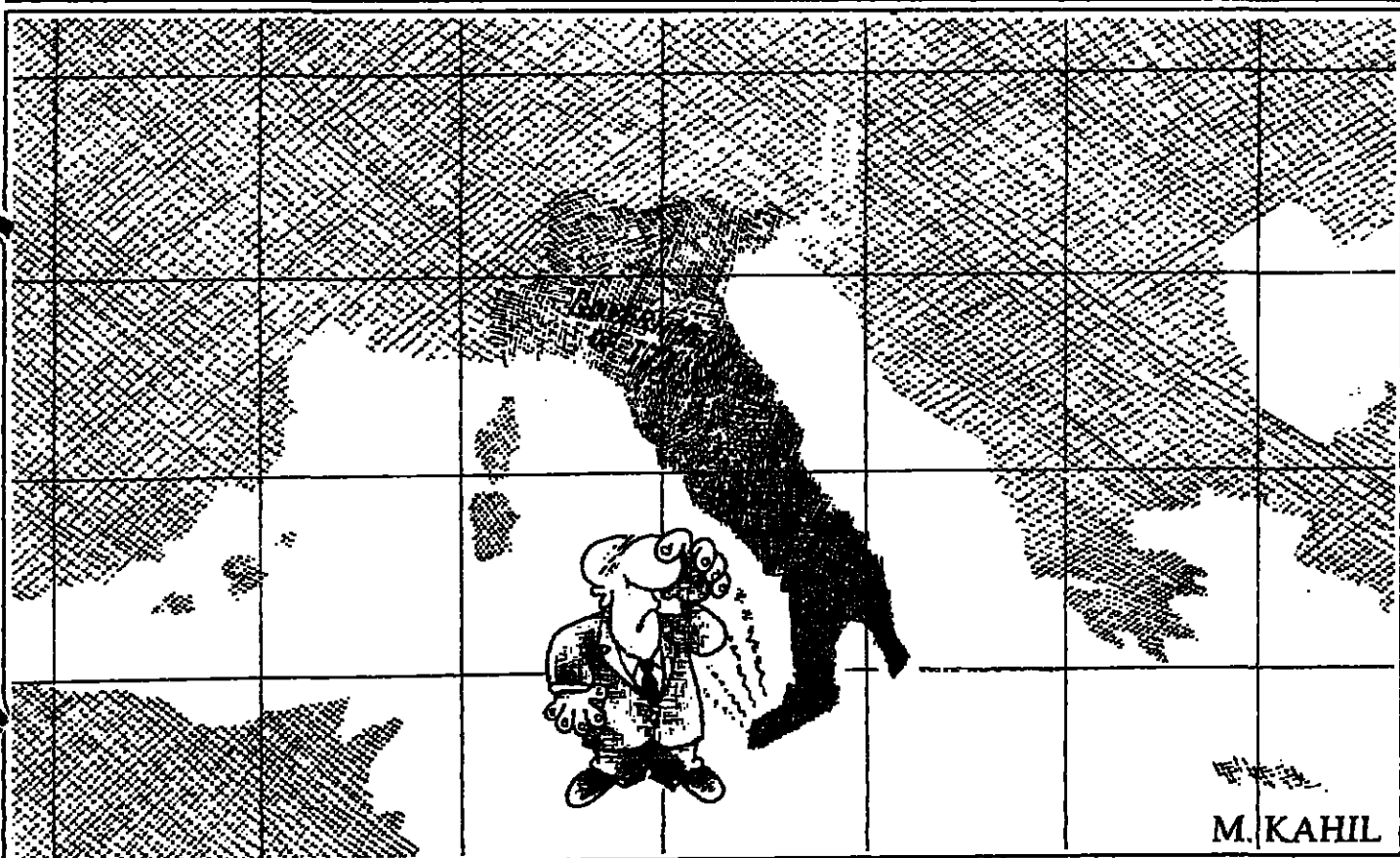
The Mines Advisory Group, a British charity running disposal programmes in countries includ-

ing Afghanistan and Laos' neighbour Cambodia, surveyed Xieng Khoang in May.

"Laos has a very serious problem," said its director, Rae McGrath. "What we found was very worrying, especially the longevity of the devices."

His team found live bombs as big as 2,270 kilograms lying around in villages and others being used to support huts. Such bombs often become increasingly dangerous the older they get, he said.

"Five thousand pounds is a very large bomb. You don't need too much imagination to realise the consequences of something that size going off in an inhabited area."



Italian politics — reform or sleight of hand?

By Daniel J. Wakin
The Associated Press

ROME — Even as Italian politicians raise their right hands to vote for reform, their left hands are busy frustrating it. So is real change afoot, or is it more like a leopard trying to change its spots?

Parliament passed the election reform required by a referendum, but the government and lawmakers also have hobbled corruption investigators and used public money to bail out scandal-ridden political parties.

Attempts to sell state companies, long a source of political influence and payoffs, are far behind schedule. Tens of thousands of managers and bureaucrats in patronage jobs remain on the payroll.

Political leaders under investigation fight back in the press, accusing investigators of political lynchings.

Just who is making things so difficult? "A political class that caused the old system to fail and does not understand well what will be in the new," according to Renzo de Felice, a leading historian.

That class is the fruit of a political tradition in this ancient land of maintaining the status quo while pretending to change it. Italians call it "leopardism," after "The Leopard" in Giuseppe de Lampedusa's classic novel, a young Sicilian nobleman caught up in the 19th century turmoil of Italian unification says: "If you want things to stay as they are, things will have to change."

In the April 18 referendum, Italians voted overwhelmingly for more direct political representation, and thus, they hoped, cleaner government.

Under the election laws passed Aug. 4, most representatives will be chosen by direct vote rather than from party slates according to a party's share of the vote. The old method was blamed for creating gridlock and a corrupt spoils system.

One-quarter of parliament seats still will be allocated under the proportional system, however, guaranteeing the survival of some weaker parties.

Voters will not even get the chance this year to dismiss the discredited parliament. Reformers had hoped for elections right after the reform laws were

passed, but premier Carlo Ciampi said they should wait until next year, after the budget. Also, the bickering lawmakers have yet to deal with redistricting and a proposal to reserve 30 seats in parliament for expatriate Italians.

Public outrage that led to the referendum was inspired by a probe of systematic kickbacks for contracts paid to politicians by private and state companies. The scandal, which began 18 months ago, has implicated more than 2,500 people, including eminent businessmen and politicians.

It has brought popularity undreamed of to such reformist parties as the Northern League, and nearly disgraced the Christian Democrat and Socialist parties, which have dominated the government since World War II.

Disillusioned citizens complain that everyone promises reform, but little seems to get done.

"The only way they change is to speak loudly of change, and then pretend to change," said Alberto Castelvetti, 31, who owns a small publishing company in Rome.

For example: — Two weeks ago, a parliament committee approved a mea-

sure limiting the use of preventive custody, which corruption investigators used to jail many figures in the scandal. Ten of the 21 committee members are among those being investigated.

Parliament moves very slowly on requests by prosecutors to lift legislative immunity for specific allegations. It has granted 175 requests, rejected 100 and has yet to act on at least 425. About one-third of the 945 members of parliament are reported to be under investigation.

In July, the government granted generous unemployment and early pension benefits to 1,700 employees of political parties that were unable to pay their salaries, and set aside \$73 million to pay the debts of party-owned newspapers. Both measures would seem to violate a provision of another referendum that prohibits government subsidies to political parties.

The government created a new Resources Ministry to handle the affairs of the Agricultural Ministry, which a referendum also abolished. Premier Ciampi moved the duties of the Tourism Ministry, also abolished, to his own office.

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Turkey unveils package to boost exports

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey, relying increasingly on exports to keep its economy growing, unveiled a package of measures Friday to keep it on course for a 1993 export target of \$17 billion.

The \$600 million package, designed to make up an anticipated \$1 billion shortfall, included loans, cut-price energy and raw cotton and extra flights to Western Europe to get round the closure of road links by the war in former Yugoslavia.

"Exports will be the locomotive of our economy. Turkey will continue to grow five per cent and balance of payments will show significant improvements with exports," Turkish treasury chief Osman Unsal told reporters.

Turkish exports boomed in the late 1980s with an annual increase

of up to 135 per cent, but rising labour costs and a policy of strong currency caused a slowdown in the climb since 1987.

Half-year exports stood at \$7.2 billion this year. Five-month balance of payments showed a deficit of \$2.4 billion.

Export growth is among the main economic policy pillars of Turkey's first woman Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, who vows to curb rampant inflation and cut a swelling budget deficit.

The package, which President Suleyman Demirel still has to approve, includes a minimum of 600 extra flights for fruit, vegetables, textiles and leather exports to counteract the effect on road traffic of the war in former Yugoslavia.

Textiles make up one third of

Turkey's total exports.

The government plans to boost the industry by providing cheap cotton to manufacturers, switching from October to a system of minimum price plus premium to cotton farmers.

Previously, textile manufacturers had to buy cotton at high subsidised prices which reduced their competitiveness abroad.

Turkey produces 600,000 tonnes of cotton a year.

The financial burden of agricultural subsidies on public deficits, expected to hit 150 trillion lira (\$12.8 billion), is 33 trillion lira (\$2.8 billion).

"This is the system Turkey needs to put into work before it moves into customs union with the European Community and we will do everything necessary to

make it work," Mr. Unsal said, hinting at reform.

The government has already extended an extra 800 million lira (\$68.2 million) to Turkish Eximbank for use in pre-export loans, which will help the bank meet 35 per cent of all exports, up from 22 per cent now.

The treasury also hopes to encourage exports to Iran and Russia by \$700 million after granting \$200 million in Eximbank which will act as a guarantor in exports to these countries.

Mr. Unsal said energy costs in export sectors would be trimmed by 25 per cent and letters of guarantee in imports for these sectors would be reduced to a minimum of three per cent. A 275 billion lira (\$23.4 million) support will be given to leather exporters.

Sabena averts crisis as unions accept wage cuts

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgian national carrier Sabena averted a crisis Friday as unions signed a much-disputed agreement paving the way for further restructuring, and its president pulled back from a threat to resign.

Pierre Godtfroid had said he would resign if the staff did not accept the wage cuts, which he saw as crucial to the airline's survival in the highly competitive industry.

"President Godtfroid has decided to stay in his function as president," Sabena ombudsman Patrick Dubois told reporters, adding that all workers' unions had signed the agreement.

In a referendum in early August, workers rejected the wage cuts in a company-wide referendum.

The salary reductions are aimed at saving around 1.1 billion Belgian francs (\$31 million), with cuts ranging from 2.5 to 17 per cent of gross salary, depending on the size of the salary.

A further 900 million francs (\$25.4 million) will come from what the company calls "external measures."

The wage cuts and other savings are part of a 15 billion franc (\$423 million) restructuring plan over the next three years.

Mr. Dubois said the next step was to put into operation the second phase of the initial restructuring plan, which will focus on the operational side and improving productivity.

French airline Air France has a 37.5 per cent stake in the Belgian firm.

Cadbury Schweppes swallows more of Dr. Pepper/Seven-Up

LONDON (R) — British chocolate and soft drinks group Cadbury Schweppes PLC swallowed a fifth of U.S. drinks firm Dr. Pepper/Seven-Up for around \$230 million Friday but denied that it planned a full takeover.

Cadbury, the third largest soft drinks company in the world behind Coca-Cola Co. and PepsiCo Inc. will buy 12.18 million shares in Dr. Pepper/Seven-Up Companies Inc. 20.2 per cent of its capital.

The Prudential Insurance Company of America will receive \$231.3 million for selling the stake. The deal is subject to U.S. anti-trust regulation.

Chairman Dominic Cadbury denied that the acquisition was a deliberate step towards a full takeover bid although he would

not exclude buying more later.

"I would not rule out a further step in the future but equally we have no plans for that," he told Reuters. "We're not ruling it out, we're not ruling it in."

He said the purchase was purely opportunistic after Prudential decided to sell.

Cadbury Schweppes already has a 5.7 per cent stake in Dr. Pepper/Seven-Up dating back in 1986. Dr. Pepper produces all Cadbury's soft drinks concentrates for the U.S. market as well as acting as a sales agent for certain brands.

Cadbury said the deal should help his firm expand in the United States — the single biggest soft drinks market worth around \$47 billion last year.

Americans drank 46.9 billion litres (\$10.2 billion gallons) of soft drinks in 1992, a third of world consumption.

Cadbury Schweppes is the fourth biggest franchiser of soft drinks in the U.S. market behind Coca-Cola, Pepsi and Dr. Pepper. Its global turnover last year was \$3.37 billion (\$5.07 billion), more than seven times that of the Dr. Pepper Group.

Cadbury said the British group would not want to get involved in the management of Dr. Pepper but he hoped it might help develop the firm's business outside the United States.

But the world famous Seven-Up brand would be out of bounds anywhere but in the U.S. market, since rights for the rest of the world are owned by PepsiCo.

Italy's AGIP defends 30-year Egypt deal

CAIRO (R) — The head of the largest foreign oil firm operating in Egypt defended a controversial new concession deal Friday, saying it would help the government tempt other foreign firms to invest in oil and gas exploration there.

The deal, which gives the Egyptian subsidiary of Italy's AGIP SPA a 30-year lease on 14 concessions, is the most comprehensive ever agreed by Egypt.

It raised nationalist hackles when Oil Minister Hamdi Al Bandi presented it to parliament in April. The opposition Al Shaab newspaper denounced it as the worst oil deal in Egyptian history.

But Giorgio Pesenti, general manager of AGIP subsidiary International Egyptian Oil Company (IEOC), praised the deal as signalling that Egypt was prepared to compete with other producers for development finance.

"It is obvious (Egypt) has made a wise decision in pushing the amendment through as it shows a real will to attract foreign investment at a time when fierce competition exists in other parts of the world," he told Reuters in an interview.

The deal extends 14 concessions worked by IEOC to the year 2020.

"The renewal of the leases has allowed IEOC to maintain its aggressive strategy of exploration in various parts of the country," Mr. Pesenti said.

Some of IEOC's separately negotiated concessions were due to run out as early as 1997.

But parliament, despite the outcry, eventually passed the rationalised agreement.

Industry sources say Mr. Bandi has constantly sweetened profit sharing, pricing and other elements of oil agreements in the past two years to try and coax foreign firms into Egypt despite the limited size of its fields compared to other countries.

Mr. Pesenti said IEOC, which produces 330,000 barrels per day (b/d) of crude, had tendered for new concessions in the latest bid round and expected eventually to reach agreement with Norway's Norsk Hydro S/A and Spain's Repsol S/A to build a joint gas pipeline from Egypt's Western Desert.

Industry sources estimate the area could double Egypt's gas reserves of 12 trillion cubic feet. But prolonged discussions about who will pay up to \$400 million for a pipeline to link into Egypt's national grid have prevented production and thwarted further exploration there.

Mr. Pesenti said IEOC would consider building a liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant on the Mediterranean coast to process Egypt's gas for export if it had regular access to about five billion cubic feet per day.

IEOC currently produces 500 million cubic feet per day from two concessions in the Nile Delta. It has announced a commercial find in the Baateem concession off the Mediterranean coast and Mr. Pesenti says there are "two other unexamined geological structures in Baateem and more in the Timsah concession."

Pakistan raises oil, gas and electricity prices

KARACHI (R) — Pakistan announced oil, gas and electricity price rises Friday, a day after the caretaker government unveiled sweeping economic reforms that will increase the cost of some other basic goods.

Caretaker Finance Minister Syed Baber Ali told reporters the government would let dealers raise prices for petroleum products following last month's devaluation of the rupee.

He did not reveal the new rates, but state-run television later said domestic oil prices would rise by 10 per cent.

Electricity and gas bills would also go up, by 15 per cent, the television report added.

Speaking of the oil hike, Mr. Ali said: "Some of the administered prices that were kept frozen

over a long period of general inflation had to be adjusted to reduce price distortions and minimise the adverse budgetary impact."

Petrol dealers have demanded a price rise since two major devaluations in July cut the rupee's value by nearly 10 per cent.

Caretaker Prime Minister Moeen Qureshi, outlining a major reform package on Thursday night, said electricity and gas prices would also rise.

In addition, the reforms will include a 15 per cent rise in the support price for wheat, aimed at encouraging local farmers, and a hike in the cost of the staple cooking oil, ghee.

But the price of sugar is expected to fall after a cut in import duties on the commodity.

Saudi Aramco to take new crude carrier in September

MANAMA (R) — A subsidiary of Saudi Aramco will begin taking delivery from September of 15 new crude carriers it has ordered from Japan, South Korea and Denmark, making it one of the biggest shipping firms in the Middle East.

"We expect to get delivery of two or three crude carriers by the end of 1993 and the rest are expected to be delivered in 1994 — one every a month," an official at Vela International Ltd (VIM), based in the Saudi oil region of Dhahran, said Saturday.

"The first carrier, built in Japan, is scheduled to be delivered on Sept. 28," he told Reuters.

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries of Japan is building three new oil carriers for Aramco. Its shipyard in Nagasaki and NKK Corporation of Japan is building three at Tsu shipyard, the official said.

South Korea's Hyundai Heavy Industries is building six ships for Aramco and Denmark's Odense shipyard is building three more,

he said. He declined to give their cost.

The vessels, each with a capacity to carry up to 300,000 tonnes of crude oil, will boost Saudi Arabia's supply of crude to its growing oil market overseas.

VIM had previously operated eight crude carriers capable of carrying 415,000 tonnes of crude oil each. The number later rose to 12 vessels after VIM took over four ships formerly run by the Saudi Arabian marketing and refining company (SAMAREC).

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, announced in June the integration of SAMAREC into Saudi Aramco, completing Aramco's transformation into a fully integrated world oil major.

Aramco President and chief executive officer Ali Naimi said last week it had completed the integration of six local refineries previously run by SAMAREC which had a total refining capacity of around 1.32 million barrels per day (b/d).

Aramco, which in 1988 became

a fully-owned Saudi Arabian company, took over totally-owned SAMAREC refineries in the kingdom and three joint-ventures in which Petromin represented Riyadh's share.

Industry sources, however, say that although integration was already completed, there was still much work to be done regarding marketing of oil.

"Aramco will have to review contracts, charges and their terms and be satisfied with them," one industry source in Dhahran said.

"All parts of SAMAREC are being taken over by Aramco. It is a complicated process," he added.

Industry sources said Saudi Arabia was planning to increase its oil production capacity to around 10 million b/d by the end of 1994 from eight million b/d now.

The kingdom does not normally publish much about its capacity expansion plans but officials had previously said the target was likely to be achieved in mid 1990's.

Cuba studies Vietnamese Chinese economic reforms

HAVANA (R) — Cuba, seeking to develop a strategy of economic reform, is studying the experiences of socialist allies Vietnam and China to see what it can learn, a senior Cuban finance official said Friday.

Jose Luis Rodriguez, Cuba's newly-appointed minister-president of the State Finances Committee, recently visited China for talks on economic policies.

Mr. Rodriguez said he was interested in studying how Vietnam had introduced economic reforms while maintaining its socialist identity as a nation.

Cuba is currently in the grip of a severe economic recession triggered by the collapse of its past preferential trade relationship with the now defunct Soviet Bloc, the Caribbean island's main economic supplier for more than three decades.

A disastrous 1992/1993 sugar harvest slashed around \$500 million from the country's already depleted hard currency revenues.

Senior Cuban officials have said Cuba will abandon some of the policies it shared with the ex-Soviet Bloc and is seeking its own model of economic recovery and development.

"I can see solutions to our economic crisis, solutions which are constructive, without abandoning the conquests of the (Cuban) revolution," Mr. Rodriguez said.

can adopt on the basis of our own specific characteristics," he said.

Mr. Rodriguez was on a five-day visit to Vietnam.

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New currency rules could threaten Ukraine reforms

KIEV (R) — New foreign exchange rules have sent Ukraine's interim officials say they could threaten the former Soviet republic's drive to introduce market reforms.

The karbovanets fell to one-third of its previous value on Kiev's tiny currency exchange on Thursday, collapsing to 19,000 against the dollar from 5,970 at the previous session.

The temporary currency, introduced at par to the rouble 20 months ago, plunged to 15 per rouble from five.

Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Pynzenyk, the cabinet minister responsible for reforms, placed the blame squarely on new rules requiring firms to sell 50 per cent of export earnings to the central bank at a fixed rate of 5,970 karbovanets per dollar.

That has sharply curtailed the supply of dollars in trading.

"This was far more than just black Thursday for the Ukrainian economy," Mr. Pynzenyk told Reuters. "It means financial

catastrophe. The situation has become very, very dangerous."

Foreign experts in Kiev attributed the currency's nosedive to the new rules, large subsidies to industry and agriculture and rumours that the government is about to introduce a permanent new currency, the hryvnia.

"The situation is similar to what we saw in Argentina and Poland some time ago," said one Western expert. "Only radical reforms can save the country from economic disaster."

The decline of the Ukrainian currency contrasted sharply with the fate of the Russian rouble, which has held its own against the dollar for weeks.

But on the black market, the fall of the karbovanets has been less pronounced. It stood at 7,700 to the dollar Friday, down from 6,800 at the start of the week.

Officials behind the new rules say setting a fixed rate for exporters is vital to settle Ukraine's debts, particularly an estimated \$1 billion owed to Moscow for energy imports.

"Of course, we understand that a fixed rate is not the solution but we must solve the problems of ensuring vital imports like energy and medicines," said Viktor Suslov, an adviser to reformist Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma. "The karbovanets began to fall sharply in July after huge new monetary issues. We were obliged to do something. No one could have forecast such a sudden collapse."

The tailspin is the latest blow to Ukraine's erratic attempts to introduce market economics to a moribund economy, 94 per cent of which is in the state sector.

Currency dealers and Western experts bemoan what they see as chaotic policy-making, with Mr. Kuchma's attempts to rein in monthly inflation of nearly 40 per cent and huge budget deficit counteracted by a free-spending parliament and central bank.

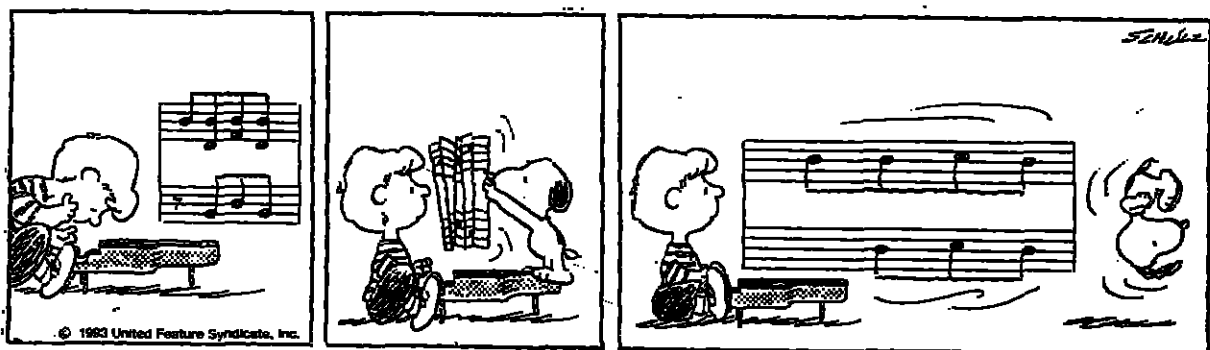
Mr. Pynzenyk predicted a collapse in trade and endless speculation in the currency unless the new rules were repealed.

Russia to hold weapons fair

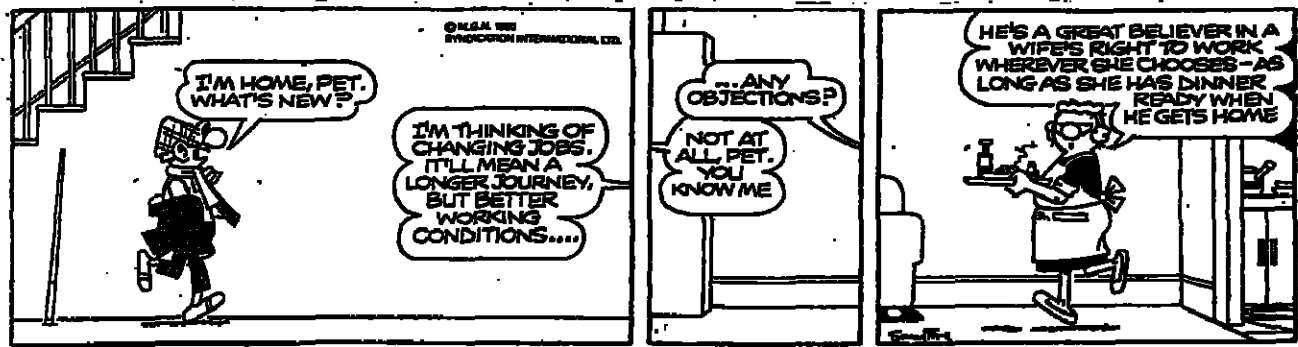
MOSCOW (AFP) — More than 200 Russian defence enterprises will exhibit their latest wares to prospective foreign buyers at a week-long arms fair in the city of Nizhny-Novgorod beginning Sept. 8, defence officials said Friday.

"It will be sort of an advertising campaign to show what we can do and what we want to sell to other states," General Nikolai Zlenko, a defence ministry official helping to organise the exhibit told a news conference. The fair, "Military Hardware and Conversion," will house some 1,500 exhibits ranging from Russia's most advanced military aircraft, armoured vehicles and battle systems, to small arms and goods from converted defence factories.

Peanuts



Andy Capp

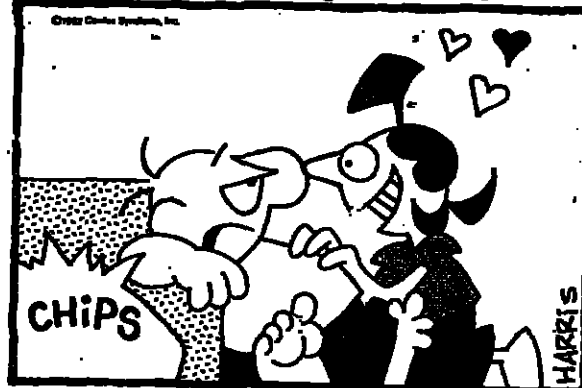


Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF.

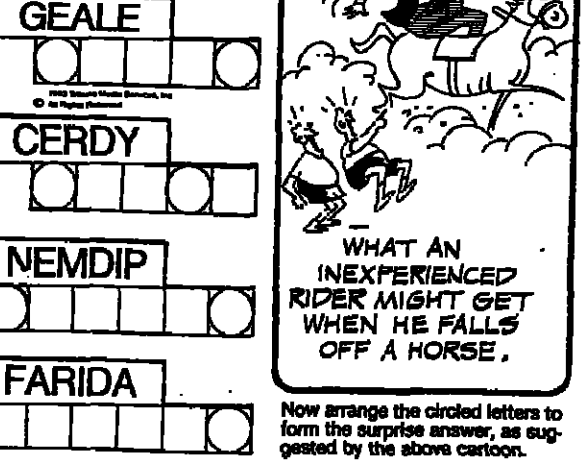
By Harris



"If you'd learn to ignore me as good as I ignore you, we'd be a lot closer."

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

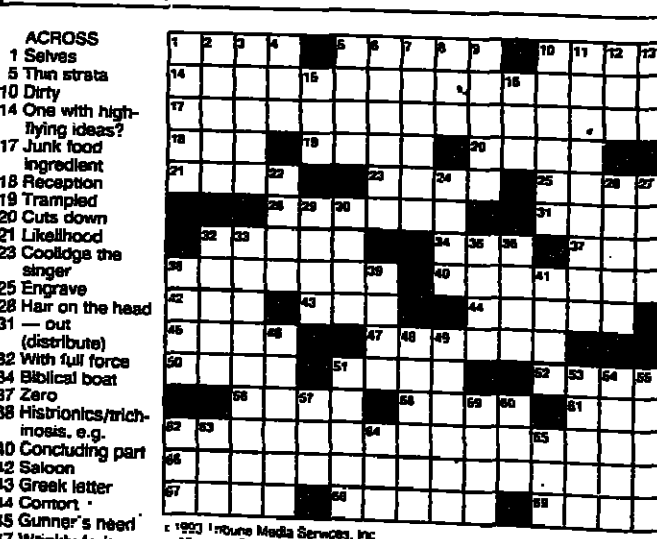
Yesterday's Jumbles: BRIBE TOXIN GRUBBY, ASTHMA

Answer: This is right when it's left on both sides — A MARCH

Horoscope not received

THE Daily Crossword

by James Barrick



ACROSS

- 1 Selva
- 2 The strata
- 3 Dirty
- 4 One with high flying ideas?
- 5 Junk food
- 6 Ingredient
- 7 Reception
- 8 Trampled
- 9 Cuts down
- 10 Likelihood
- 11 Coolidge the singer
- 12 Engrave
- 13 Hair on the head
- 14 out (disturbance)
- 15 With full force
- 16 Biblical boat
- 17 Zero
- 18 Historians/prich-moses, e.g.
- 19 Concluding part
- 20 Saloon
- 21 Greek letter
- 22 Corner
- 23 Gunner's heart
- 24 Wrinkly fruit
- 25 Shredding wood
- 26 Song of praise
- 27 Keep — on (watch)
- 28 Series of eight
- 29 Schuss
- 30 Commotion
- 31 Man on a date
- 32 Actress
- 33 Farrow
- 34 Albino city
- 35 Packed
- 36 Items for whetting
- 37 Equal: pref.
- 38 Epistle: abbr.
- 39 New
- 40 Mid. abbr.
- 41 Parry for men
- 42 A pronoun
- 43 Walker or Eastwood
- 44 Contained
- 45 Charter
- 46 Body structure: abbr.
- 47 "What's in —?"
- 48 Presser
- 49 Sinking ship
- 50 Flightless bird
- 51 Bird as —
- 52 Queen of Scots
- 53 Yarn fuzz
- 54 African animals
- 55 Ovary
- 56 Dye
- 57 Handles (blackjack)
- 58 Word of greeting
- 59 Showed disapproval
- 60 Rule smooth
- 61 Legal thing
- 62 Vingt (blackjack)
- 63 "Do — say"
- 64 Chic
- 65 Canoe letters
- 66 Eulogy
- 67 Rel. of EDT

Cambodian troops mop up after offensive against Khmer Rouge

PHNOM PENH (Agencies) — Cambodian coalition forces were carrying out mopping-up operations Saturday against Khmer Rouge guerrillas in the northwest of the country after a successful push against the rebels during the week.

Lieutenant-General Pann Thay said coalition forces were sweeping parts of Banteay Meanchey province, notably the area east of Thmar Puok.

"The fighting is finished right now," the general, vice chief of staff of the coalition army, said. He added that the mopping-up operations focused on disarming militias and villagers supplied with weapons by the Khmer Rouge.

He said Banteay Meanchey province on the Thai border was otherwise quiet, as were Kompong Thom province in central Cambodia and Siem Reap province in the northwest.

A U.N. military spokesman said that according to the latest U.N. situation report from the northwest, since Friday there had been "no new initiatives or attacks or withdrawals".

Eric Falt, spokesman for the U.N. Transitional Authority in

Cambodia (UNTAC), had reported that coalition forces occupied an important Khmer Rouge depot at Phum Chhat in Banteay Meanchey just after dawn Friday.

He said Friday that the unified army, grouping troops of the former Phnom Penh regime with fighters of two guerrilla groups once allied to the Khmer Rouge, had consolidated advances in Ampil district to the north of Phum Chhat.

"The Cambodian Armed Forces looked firmly in control of the two districts, except for one or two pockets of resistance," he said, adding that they had made gains during mid-week fighting in Kompong Thom province.

Gen. Pann Thay said the coalition forces had put their flag on Phum Chhat Hill. "We captured about 500 Khmer Rouge with family and more than 2,000 weapons, plus some trucks," he said.

He said some 10 tonnes of ammunition had been seized from Phum Chhat and elsewhere in Banteay Meanchey during the push.

Captured weapons included two 122-mm artillery pieces, around 100 B-40 rocket launchers

and AK-47 assault rifles.

The general said he had not heard of reports that Khmer Rouge guerrillas fleeing the government artillery barrage on Phum Chhat during the week had been allowed into Thailand.

"From Chhat they crossed the border to Thailand... (but) I heard they (the Thais) did not accept them," Pann Thay said.

The U.N. military spokesman said reports that Khmer Rouge guerrillas had crossed the border and been escorted south towards their base at Pailin could not be confirmed.

Meanwhile, the chairman of Cambodia's interim Constituent Assembly, Son Samn, said Saturday on his return to Phnom Penh that the Khmer Rouge must surrender before talks can be held.

The 82-year-old leader, who has been receiving medical treatment in Paris since early July, said he was drafting a peace proposal to supplement the 1991 Paris peace accords which have not been implemented.

Khmer Rouge nominal leader Khieu Samphan appealed for talks in Bangkok as Cambodian forces captured guerrilla strong-

holds in the northwest.

"It is not the time to accept Khieu Samphan's proposal," Mr. Son Samn said.

"I want to have negotiations," he said, "but we have to ask the Khmer Rouge to lay down their arms."

The United Nations sent 20,000 peacekeepers to Cambodia to implement the peace plan and hold elections for the Constituent Assembly.

But the Khmer Rouge boycotted the elections and continued to impose conditions for their rejoining the national community, so the government launched an offensive against them on Aug. 8.

The government said during the offensive that the time for talking with the Khmer Rouge was over and that the government was currently occupied with other matters.

"We don't want to negotiate with a gun to our heads," Finance Minister Sam R. say said.

He and other officials suggested that the government would consider talks following the co-prime ministers' visit to Vietnam Monday through Wednesday.

3 ministries fingered in Russian corruption probe

MOSCOW (AFP) — Three Russian ministries are at the centre of a burgeoning corruption probe stretching to the top levels of government, according to investigators quoted Saturday by the news agency ITAR-TASS and the trade union paper *Trud*.

The investigators said they were focusing efforts on the external trade, economy and energy ministries.

Trud quoted Yuri Kalmykov, head of a Special Anti-Corruption Commission, saying that the new inquiry centred on alleged abuses of ministerial powers in handing out sale quotas and licences involving oil and other strategic materials such as rare metals and nuclear components.

Alexei Ilyushenko, head of the presidential watchdog body, said "some ministers are now suspected of having abused their powers and their fate must be decided," according to ITAR-TASS.

"Corruption has invaded the higher echelons and risks turning the state into a criminal," he added, refusing to give names.

The Anti-Corruption Commission earlier this week publicly accused several Russian leaders, including Russian Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi, of being involved in various scandals.

Mr. Kalmykov maintained in an interview published Saturday by the *Komsomolskaya Pravda* that Mr. Rutskoi had hidden \$3 million in a Swiss bank account.

According to Mr. Ilyushenko, investigators have obtained important documents including the bank statements of the Renaissance Association headed by Mr. Rutskoi.

On Thursday, Mr. Rutskoi rejected the corruption accusations, calling them "deliberate falsehoods" and vowed to defend his reputation in the courts.

Nicaragua rivals urge end to hostage crisis

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaragua's rival political factions joined together Saturday to demand an immediate end to two linked hostage crises threatening to undermine the country's already fragile stability.

In a dramatic early morning news conference following a series of emergency meetings, President Violeta Chamorro said the country would ask Organisation of American States envoys to seek the release of 75 politicians and military officials being held hostage in Managua and in a remote mountain village 240 kilometres (150 miles) north of the capital.

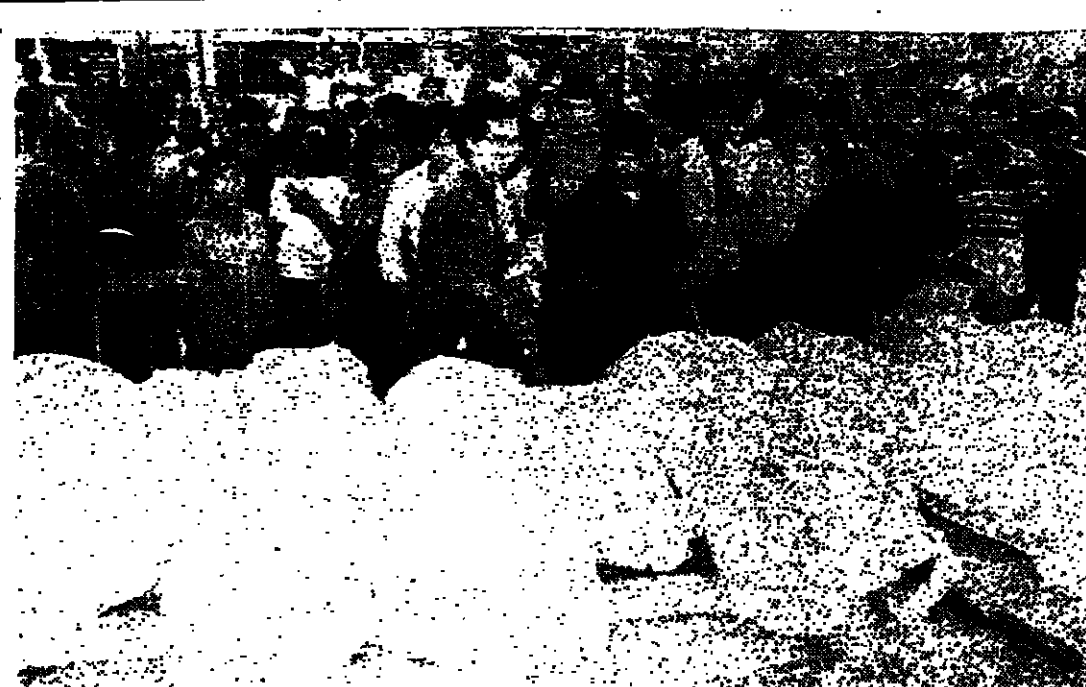
Only hours earlier gunmen had seized the headquarters of a leading political party, the National Opposition Union (UNO), in Managua and taken hostage over 30 party leaders including Nicaraguan Vice President Virgilio Godoy.

The gunmen backing the leftist Sandinista Party were demanding the release of some 40 government officials and military officers being held hostage since Thursday by rebels in the north of the country.

Mrs. Chamorro was flanked at the news conference by representatives of UNO, her chief of staff Antonio Lacayo and leftist Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega, the man she defeated in a 1990 presidential election.

"Today is a historic day for all Nicaraguans," she said in a voice breaking with emotion, urging the journalists to "tell the world that (these factions) are unified to work for our homeland and now we won't see any more armed conflict."

Mr. Ortega told reporters the political groups would meet again to form two commissions to address both hostage situations in an attempt to restore stability to Nicaragua.



Peruvian authorities and relatives line up to try to identify the bodies of some of the 62 Indians killed by Shining Path rebels (AFP photo)

Peru rebel massacre defies Fujimori

LIMA (Agencies) — The massacre of 62 jungle tribespeople by Shining Path guerrillas, one of the deadliest attacks in the 13-year-old insurgency, casts doubt on President Alberto Fujimori's pledge to crush the movement by 1995.

It was the worst attack since Shining Path mastermind Abimael Guzman was arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment last fall. His capture left the rebels in disarray in Lima, but they are believed still strong in rural areas.

"The Shining Path has not been defeated. It has proved it can still carry out attacks in the mountains and jungle, and force others to do their killing for them," said Carlos Tapia, a sociologist who studies the movement.

Mr. Tapia said the cruelty of the latest raid showed that the movement's Maoist ideology made recruited natives feel superior to others, and without remorse.

A column of rebels and recruited Ashaninka Indians overran seven jungle villages in the Ene River valley, 400 kilometres east of Lima, between Wednesday night and Thursday morning, according to survivors.

They hacked to death 62 men, women and children from the Ashaninka tribe, said Alejandro Morveli, mayor of Satipo, 290 kilometres east of Lima.

An AP photographer saw local officials in the jungle town of Mazamari line up dozens of bodies wrapped in blankets as weeping natives tried to identify their relatives.

Many bodies of children and babies were so mutilated by machetes that their faces were unrecognisable.

The survivor, 10-year-old Walter Sinti Quintumaya, told the photographer that the rebels covered his mouth so he could not scream as they axed his friends and relatives to death in his village of Tahuantinsuyo.

"They came and began to kill without speaking," Quintumaya said. "They killed my brother, my sister, my uncle."

An army spokesman said the attack was apparently to punish the natives for having deserted the Shining Path's ranks and having helped the army search for the rebels. He said the armed forces were considering evacuation.

ing 700 Ashaninka families from the area to a valley near the army base in Mazamari, near Satipo.

An air force plane left for the area Friday with 10 tonnes of food and medicine.

Last October, in the last major massacre, rebels killed 47 villagers in the southern Andes to punish them for having formed rural militia. Nearly 30,000 people have died in the Shining Path's bid for power.

Retired General Sinesio Jarama, a counterinsurgency expert, said army successes in driving the rebels out of the area forced them to strike back.

Gen. Jarama said Mr. Fujimori could not deliver on his promise to defeat the Shining Path before 1995 unless the government increased spending to ease the acute poverty in which half of Peru's 22 million people live.

The latest issue of the Shining Path newspaper *El Diario* called Mr. Fujimori's promise "a deluded dream that is becoming a daily nightmare when the Communist Party's nationwide actions strike harder." The Shining Path calls itself the Peruvian Communist Party.

Pressure builds up on Nigerian rulers

LAGOS (AFP) — Pressure was building up on Nigeria's military rulers both at home and abroad Friday, a week ahead of a deadline for them to step down and return the country to civilian rule.

Nigeria's workers, pro-democracy organisations and legislators appeared virtually unanimous in demanding that the military quit the political scene by Aug. 27, the eighth anniversary of General Ibrahim Babangida's seizure of power.

The political crisis triggered by General Babangida's annulment of presidential elections held on June 12 appeared to be working up to a climax as political and labour leaders called for the army to hand over power completely, rather than form an interim government as currently proposed.

The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) Thursday called on workers to launch a civil disobedience campaign if the military failed to hand over power on Aug. 27.

The organisation, which represents 41 industrial and professional unions, described the proposed interim government — which would take over from the present military administration on Aug. 27 — as "unconstitutional."

"If by Aug. 27 the military does not proclaim the 1993 constitution, hand over to the Senate president (as provided for in this constitution), and disengage from governance, workers would stay at home and dissociate themselves from any unconstitutional government until further notice," the NLC said.

Similarly, the Nigerian Senate late Thursday passed a resolution demanding that Gen. Babangida hand over power to Senate President Iyorchia Ayu on Aug. 27.

Gen. Babangida has repeatedly pledged to cede power on Aug. 27, his latest offer to step down as president and armed forces chief coming last Tuesday.

Pro-democracy and human rights groups in the country were to meet Saturday to coordinate action against Gen. Babangida's interim government plan.

The meeting, under the aegis of the Campaign For Democracy (CD) which unites 38 pro-democracy groups, would involve other associations with similar goals, such as the Association for Democracy and Good Governance (ADGG), founded and headed by former head of state Olusegun Obasanjo.

Meanwhile France called for the result of the June poll to be recognised as valid.

A Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said Paris hoped "that power can be rapidly handed over to civilians."

In Ottawa, Canadian Foreign Minister Perrin Beatty called on Gen. Babangida to restore democracy and hand power over to a civilian administration next week.

Mr. Beatty deplored "the continued manoeuvring on interim arrangements," noting that "the harsh crackdown on human rights leaders and the free press indicate that this call (to hand over power) has not been heeded."

In Paris Moshoud Abiola, who has been campaigning in Europe for support for his poll victory, appealed to France as the superpower in the West African sub-region to support the Nigerian people's quest for democracy and prevent a bloodbath.

"Any problem in Nigeria is going to set the whole of West Africa on fire," he warned at a news conference.

Mr. Abiola has promised to return to Nigeria Tuesday in readiness to take over as president.

Kim Basinger, Alec Baldwin marry

NEW YORK (R) — After a top-secret wedding in the upper-crust Long Island resort of East Hampton, movie stars Kim Basinger and Alec Baldwin jetted off on an equally secret two-week honeymoon, the actresses' publicist said. The Thursday evening wedding — as private as it could be considering the fact that it took place on a public beach — was denied up to the last minute under orders of the couple, said under orders of the couple, said the publicist Robert Garlock. The brief ceremony, with torches, confetti and rose petals, was witnessed by about 100 guests. Mr. Garlock said, including film actor Paul Newman and singer Billy Joel. Basinger, 39, and Baldwin, 35, met in 1990 during the filming of the movie *The Marrying Man*. For Basinger, who is best known for her roles in *Batman* and *9½ Weeks*, the marriage appears to be a rare sunny moment in a tough year. In March she was hit with an \$8.9 million verdict for allegedly breaking a verbal agreement to appear in *Boring Helena* and in May filed for bankruptcy. When she returns, Basinger will be hitting the publicity circuit for her latest film *The Real McCoy*. Baldwin, the oldest of three acting brothers, came to prominence in the film *The Hunt For Red October*, with Sean Connery.

Top model to sue over topless pictures

BONN (AFP) — Top German model Claudia Schiffer will seek 10 million marks (about \$6.5 million) damages against three European magazines that published topless photographs of her on their front pages, a German daily said Friday. "These photographs are an invasion of my privacy," Ms. Schiffer told Bild newspaper. "I have never wanted to be photographed naked. Besides, my (modelling) contracts forbid it." The pictures of Ms. Schiffer dressed only in a bikini bottom were taken a few days ago without her knowledge while she was on holiday in the Spanish resort of Mallorca with her mother Gudrun, 49, sister Caroline, 18, and British rock singer Peter Dinklage, she told Bild. A press photographer took the pictures as she sunbathed on board her boat. Ms. Schiffer told the newspaper, "I wanted to go swimming. At that moment I got the impression that someone was watching me. I am sure that is when I was photographed with a telephoto lens," she said. The pictures were sold to Italian magazine *Noi*, German magazine *Bunte* and a French weekly for 80,000 marks a time, Bild said. The *Noi* picture was reprinted Thursday on the front pages of German tabloid newspapers — the first time they have published a topless photo of the high-profile Schiffer. A spokesman for the Metropolitan Agency, which represents the model, said the pictures "tarnished the image" of Ms. Schiffer. The spokesman added: "Her publicity contract with beauty products company Revlon could be terminated."

Paris thieves tinker with automatic tellers

PARIS (R) — Paris police alerted people to risks in automatic cash dispensers rigged by ingenious thieves to get your bank card, secret pin code and your money. A police spokeswoman said around 100 people have been victims of the scam in the French capital since April. The method involves mounting cash dispensers with a fake slit to put the card in, and a false keyboard over the one where customers tap in their secret code followed by the amount of cash they want. The real keyboard underneath does not receive the code and the frustrated customer wanders off, without money and without a card, presuming the machine has simply swallowed it up. The thief then returns, takes the card and the fake keyboard which has registered the code to go with it. Police say the crooks involved have been taking out up to 5,000 francs (\$860) with each stolen card.

Brazil has 2 million child prostitutes

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) — There are almost two million child prostitutes in Brazil, a congressional commission said. In state of Rio de Janeiro alone there are 300,000 child prostitutes, said the six deputies, who were in Rio on a fact-finding mission. About five per cent of the estimated two million prostitutes aged between nine and 17 years old have the AIDS virus, and many ply their trade without condoms to please customers and raise their fees, the deputies said. The congressional commission aims to set up a telephone line for informants.

NEWS IN BRIEF

China revokes passport of dissident

HONG KONG (AFP) — China made dissident Han Dongfang a stateless person Saturday, revoking the pro-democracy labour activist's passport a week after he returned home to Peking from the United States. Officials at the Chinese News Agency's Hong Kong branch said China's de facto consulate in the British colony told Mr. Han his Chinese passport would no longer be valid, on orders from "concerned government departments." His saga raised fresh doubts about China's policy towards dissidents, which it had appeared to be softening in order to woo international support for Peking's bid to host the 2000 Olympic Games. Visibly shaken, the soft-spoken Han, 30, said Peking's decision to make him stateless was a matter of "shame," not only for himself but for all Chinese people. "In theory, I'm not a legal person anymore. I have no passport," he told reporters outside Xinhua's offices.

Uphold democracy, Aquino, Ramos urge

MANILA (R) — Former President Corazon Aquino and President Fidel Ramos urged Filipinos Saturday to continue to uphold democracy. Speaking at a mass commemorating the 10th anniversary of the assassination of her husband, Benigno, Mrs. Aquino said people should continue to struggle against absolute power. "Absolute power should not be given to anyone again," she said. "If it is seized again by force, we will oppose it. I certainly will." Mrs. Aquino said faith should not be put in those who advocate the return of absolute power to pave the way for progress, because freedom could not be sacrificed for progress. Mr. Ramos, who was present at the mass, said freedom and democracy must be sustained. Church leaders, led by Roman Catholic Cardinal Jaime Sin, called on people to foster love of country, founded on morality.

Report: B-2 bomber will be brutal

WASHINGTON (R) — The new B-2 Stealth bomber will be able to drop more tonnes of bombs faster in future wars than B-52s did in the Gulf war — but not until after 1998, said a U.S. congressional report. The General Accounting Office (GAO) report supported U.S. Air Force statements that the bomber will be able to fly anywhere in the world to bomb and stall an enemy invasion force in hours, long before other U.S. forces can arrive. But it said the costly radar-evading bomber will not begin to be that effective until 1998 and will not have all its sophisticated weapons until the next century. If the B-2 passes its current flight testing programme and goes into production, precision bombs and other weapons are to be installed in the first eight B-2s in 1998 and in the remaining 12 B-2s by the year 2000.

Japanese exchange student shot in U.S.

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — A Japanese exchange student was in critical condition in hospital after being found shot in the head following a mysterious attack, police said. Masakazu Kuriyama, 25, was found with a gunshot wound in the back of his head shortly after midnight Thursday near a commuter railway station 50 kilometres east of San Francisco. Kuriyama was rushed to the nearby John Muir Medical Centre but has not yet regained consciousness and is in critical condition, police said. "The prognosis is not very good," a police spokesman said. Police have made no arrests and have no suspects.

Siamese twin separated; one dies

PHILADELPHIA (A) — Doctors sacrificed 7-week-old Amy Lakeberg in a 5½-hour operation that gave her siamese twin sister, Angela, sole possession of their shared, malformed heart — and a slender hope of survival. Angela was, listed in critical condition, resting comfortably, and her doctors were hopeful. But

they acknowledged her chance at survival was slim. Before the separation surgery, nurses had painted Angela's tiny fingernails pink and left her sister's bare. The infant twins' parents interpreted that as a sign — Any would die to give Angela a narrow chance of life. Family members said their goodbyes Friday morning before the surgical team at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia began the operation, although doctors originally estimated the operation could take 20 hours, they finished in 5½.

U.S. lets hunger-striking go to Cuba

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States authorised a group of ministers on a hunger strike aboard a school bus in Texas to travel to Cuba with humanitarian supplies. Minnesota-based Pastors For Peace, a group committed to ending the U.S. trade embargo of Cuba, had been barred by U.S. customs officials from driving their yellow school bus into Mexico, from where it had been due to be shipped to Cuba to deliver humanitarian aid donations. Nine members of the group have been on hunger strike since their bus was turned back by border agents in Laredo, Texas, 23 days ago. "We are pleased we have been able to work constructively with the Pastors For Peace to resolve the situation on the border at Laredo," said Richard Newcomb, director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control at the U.S. Treasury Department in a statement.

U.S. troops patrol Macedonian border

SKOPJE (R) — U.S. soldiers began patrolling the border between Macedonia and Serbia Friday, taking over two observation points from Swedish troops to strengthen a United Nations effort to prevent a widespread Balkan war. The 325 U.S. soldiers, who had already spent a month in Macedonia learning peacekeeping techniques, were sent in as a warning to Serbs against aggressive action in Serbia's southern province of Kosovo which borders Macedonia. Western diplomats say Kosovo, where tensions run high between the ethnic Albanian majority and the minority Serbs, holds the key to stability in the region. They fear violence in Kosovo, or conflict between Serbia and Macedonia, could drag Albania, Bulgaria and even Greece and Turkey into a full-blown Balkan war.

11 held for Burma bombing attacks

RANGOON (AP) — Authorities have arrested an anti-government rebel and 10 accomplices in connection with a bomb explosion in front of the Chinese embassy earlier this year, an official newspaper reported Saturday. The *New Light of Myanmar* said the 11 were seized on Aug. 6 while planning another bombing attack in the Burmese capital. The leader of the group was identified as Taik Yin, 44, who joined the All Burma Students Democratic Front in 1991 after escaping from prison, where he was serving time for murder, robbery and drug offenses. The front is one of several clandestine groups formed to fight the military junta in Burma after 1988, when troops brutally suppressed a nationwide pro-democracy uprising.

Togo opposition to boycott election

LOME (R) — The main opposition alliance in Togo has withdrawn its candidate from next week's presidential elections, saying they must be postponed because preparations are incomplete. The Cod 2 Alliance formally notified an international committee monitoring the elections of its decision Friday night, officials said. Other opposition groups said they would also boycott elections if they went ahead Wednesday as planned and would call on Togolese voters to do the same. They want the West African country's Electoral Commission to check voter lists, issue new voter cards and guarantee a secret ballot. President Gnassingbe Eyadema, in power since 1967, is now the only serious candidate satisfied with the preparations.

Bangladesh opposition draws fresh battle line against government

DHAKA (AFP) — Bangladesh's main opposition Awami League (AL) has launched a fresh campaign against the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) even as the opposition alliance begins to crack.

At what was believed to be the largest opposition rally since free elections in 1991, AL chief and opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed bitterly criticised the 30-month old BNP government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia but also alluded to "some party leaders" who were trying to betray her from within the party.

She did not say who the party leaders were, but at another rally near Dhaka one of her disgruntled party leaders Kamal Hossain urged people to join him in his "mainstream" political campaign.

Mr. Hossain, a former foreign minister, played a key role in bringing Ms. Wajed back home in 1981 from six-years of self-exile to head her slain father's party. But he distanced himself gradually from the party leadership alleging a lack of democracy within the AL.

A top lawyer who drafted the country's first constitution, Mr. Hossain last year floated Democratic Forum, a pressure group of intellectuals.

He recently decided to convert the Forum into a new political party at a convention later this

month. Two smaller groups including a faction of the Communist Party (CPB), who were part of the 15-party opposition alliance headed by AL, sided with him.

"We are the mainstream, we want to solve peoples' problems upholding the spirit of democracy," Mr. Hossain was quoted as saying Saturday after accusing both opposition and government of violating electoral commitments.

In her fiery 50-minute speech Ms. Wajed also reiterated her demand for the trial of those behind an Aug. 15, 1975 coup that killed her father and the nation's founding leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family.

But she and party leaders also focussed on alleged corruption by government ministers and the plight of farmers and workers to justify their new campaign.

Ms. Wajed, told a cheering crowd, estimated by pro-AL papers at between 300,000 and 400,000, that her party's new anti-government agitation would start on Sept. 8 with a campaign to "save farmers, save the country" and end Oct. 10 with a general strike.

"Having failed to run the country, the BNP government has chosen the path of all round terrorism to cling to power," she charged in a statement earlier

referring to mostly harmless crude bomb blasts that preceded the rally.

Ms. Wajed did not specify if the new campaign was aimed at ousting the BNP government or forcing it to hold mid-term elections. She said if the AL was voted to power it would work for welfare of common people including farmers and workers. Next general elections are due in late 1995 or early 1996.

Government ministers have charged the AL of resorting to agitation and unrest since its 1991 poll defeat to hinder the BNP's new economic and social development programmes and to undermine its success.

"No politics can be sustained through threat and muscle power, we believe that politics becomes strong only with the love and support of the people," Mrs. Zia was quoted as saying Friday at a party meeting.

She said the present development trend created by her government should be carried forward "with tolerance and patience ignoring all instigations from vested quarters."

Information Minister Nazmul Huda "at a time when the government was engaged in implementing development programmes... certain quarters were giving strike calls."

Ben Johnson makes soccer debut

TORONTO (R) — Ben Johnson, banned for life from athletics after two positive drug tests, made his professional soccer debut Friday in a friendly match between a local club and a South American all-star team.

Johnson, who played soccer as a youth in his native Jamaica, entered the game in the 15th minute as a forward for the Agincourt Magic. They lost to the South American all-stars 3-0.

The match preceded a game between the Toronto Blizzard of the American Professional Soccer League and Clarendon Hazard United, Jamaica's national champions.

Some saw it as a publicity stunt for the Blizzard who are drawing fewer than 400 fans per game this season. It was Johnson's first public appearance since his life-time suspension in March.

Scattered applause from the 200 fans greeted the public address announcement that the Magic line-up "features former Canadian and world champion sprinter Ben Johnson."

Johnson did not figure in any of his team's scoring chances, but threw a powerful body check on one opponent to gain possession of the ball.

Early in the second half, he grabbed a pass mid-field and broke away with it for some 10 metres. His splayed fingers and burst of speed was reminiscent of the form he showed as a

sprinter.

Johnson's participation raised questions about whether his life-time ban from athletics prohibited him from playing organized soccer.

A spokesman for the Canadian Centre for Drug-Free Sport, which conducts drug tests on behalf of the IAAF in North and Central America, said Johnson's IAAF ban does not apply to a professional sport.

Mehrdad Masoudi, a spokesman for the Canadian soccer association, said Johnson was not an official member of the Agincourt Club.

"No one can stop Ben from playing soccer or any other sport as long as it's not an official team, just a friendly game," Masoudi said in an interview. "It's just a publicity stunt by the Toronto Blizzard to get fans and media to pay attention."

In March Johnson told the Italian television station TGS, operated by AC Milan owner Silvio Berlusconi, he was interested in playing soccer in Italy. But Masoudi said the International Soccer Federation (FIFA) could prevent that from happening.

"A European team would have to get FIFA's permission to sign a player who was caught using drugs of any kind. And, FIFA would say no and respect the other sport federation's ban."

Sampras' No. 1 ranking under threat

INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) — Unheralded Aussie Patrick Rafter continued his upset streak Friday stunning Wimbledon champion Pete Sampras to reach the semi-finals U.S. Men's Hardcourt Tennis Championship.

Rafter, ranked 119th in the world, beat the two-time defending champion 7-6 (8/6), 6-7 (3-7), 7-6 (7/5).

The 20-year-old from Brisbane was delighted with the win, which put Sampras' world number one ranking under threat.

If second-seeded Jim Courier reaches the final this week, he could reclaim the top spot, a valuable morale booster as the U.S. Open approaches.

For Rafter, who was a late replacement for injured Anders Jarryd in the draw here, the victory was proof that he is ready to take on tennis' toughest competitors.

"At the end, I think Pete got a little bit nervous," Rafter said. "He let me off the hook, and I went in and took it. It's good to know that everyone gets nervous, even the top guys."

Sampras' nerves showed in his inability to break Rafter, despite 10 break points in the third set. The Australian's high, kick serve stymied Sampras, who also made a few service errors of his own at critical moments.

Both held serve throughout the first set to force the tie-breaker. Sampras led 4-2 before Rafter battled back to 5-5, saved a set point with his own serve for 6-6, and set up his first set point with an ace.

When Sampras came to the net behind his next serve, Rafter passed him for the set.

In the second they exchanged service breaks in the fourth and fifth games, Sampras double faulting on break point.

The American led 3-0 in the tie-breaker before two double faults set him back. He recovered to lead 6-3, and lifted the set with one rare service return winner.

In the third, Sampras had Rafter on the defensive, but failed to capitalize on his chances.

He wanted eight break points in the seventh game and two more in the ninth.

Sampras said he would take next week off, after playing four weeks in a row.

"Physically and mentally it's tough on these hardcourts to play four straight weeks," he said.

"My shins are fine, but playing every day in the heat is tiring. It's too much tennis."

Rafter, who beat eight-seeded South Africa Wayne Ferreira and 10th-seeded Russian Andrei Chesnokov en route to the quarter-finals, is scheduled to play the U.S. Open qualifying tournament next week.

Maleeva-Fragniere upsets Fernandez

In Toronto, Canada, Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere of Switzerland upset fourth-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States 6-4, 6-4 in the quarter-finals of the \$750,000 Canadian Open Friday.

Two other semi-finalists were determined when top-seeded Steffi Graf of Germany defeated Nathalie Tauziat of France 6-2, 7-5 and second-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain eliminated seventh-seeded Anke Huber of Germany 5-7, 6-2, 6-1.

American Jennifer Capriati, the sixth seed, advanced without having to take to the court when her opponent, unseeded Julie Halard of France, had to withdraw due to a back injury.

At dusk in the 10th game of the second set, Maleeva-Fragniere appeared to have reached match point for the fifth time when her opponent missed a smash into the net.

However, Fernandez claimed that she had been bothered by a mistaken out call on the previous shot and, after much discussion and a courtesy visit from referee Brenda Perry of New Zealand, the point was replayed.

The umpire and virtually no one in the crowd had heard the linesman. Nonetheless, the proper ruling was to play the point over.

When Fernandez faulted on her first serve, many spectators cheered and applauded because they sympathized with Maleeva-Fragniere and disagreed with the decision. That may have bothered the American as she badly misfired on a forehand in the ensuing rally to set up the Maleeva-Fragniere's fifth match point.

The 26-year-old Swiss finally won with a forehand placement to earn her first victory over Fernandez after five consecutive losses dating back to 1990.

Maleeva-Fragniere said she will leave the tour after next

year's Australian Open, but says like Friday make her think about reconsidering.

"When you play matches like this one, in front of good crowd like the one here, you don't feel like stopping," she said. "These are the moments that you enjoy most. I've had a lot of good moments like this. When I have doubts about retiring it's because I know I'll never live them again."

Maleeva-Fragniere, ranked number 12, takes an 8-16 record into her semi-final against the number one-ranked Graf.

On Friday, Graf ran another 16-0 career head-to-head match record to 17-0 with her victory over Tauziat.

The number 17-ranked Tauziat, who has still never won a set from Graf, was nonetheless pleased with her play. She has adopted a more aggressive style and, but for an easy forehand volley missed into the net at 5-5, 40-30 in the second set, might have had a chance to put an end to that prolonged streak.

Sanchez Vicario, ranked third, struggled with the 10th ranked Huber in the first set but then gradually took control of the match with her steady play and tenacious retrieving.

Korda advances in Connecticut tournament

In New Haven, Connecticut, fourth-seeded Pete Korda of Czechoslovakia moved into the semifinals of the \$1.04 million Volvo International tennis tournament with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over unseeded Stefano Pescosolido of Italy Friday.

Americans Ivan Lendl and Andre Agassi were locked in a tense backcourt duel, with Agassi winning crucial points from the backcourt to take a 5-3 lead in the first set.

Agassi was serving for the set at 30-all when play was halted for the first of three times because of rain. Five hours later play was suspended until Saturday.

Korda, a semifinalist in the recent Canadian Open, has yet to drop a set in the tournament.

Against Pescosolido, the 22-year-old Italian who had put out two seeds on the way to the quarterfinals, Korda served and hit from the backcourt with consistency and needed only 67 minutes to finish the job.

World Athletics Championships

Spain wins 2nd gold; U.S. leads relay qualifying

Jackson sets world record; Devers completes sprint double

STUTTGART (AP) — Spain completed a double in the men's walking events Saturday, and the U.S. team posted the fastest heat time in the men's 4-x-100 relay to set up a likely gold-medal duel with Britain.

Jesus Angel Garcia won the 50-kilometre walk in 3 hours, 41 minutes and 41 seconds, the fastest time of the year, for Spain's second gold medal of the World Championships. Valentin Massana won the 20-kilometre walk last weekend.

Garcia pulled away from Valentin Kononen of Finland, who took the silver in 3:42:02. Russia's Valery Spitsyn was third in 3:42:50.

In the relays, the American team of Jon Drummond, Andre Cason, Calvin Smith and Leroy Burrell clocked the fastest time (38.12 seconds) in the first-round heats. It was the third fastest time of the year.

The Cuban team had the next best time at 38.66, followed by Ivory Coast at 38.77 and Britain at 38.80.

Dennis Mitchell is scheduled to replace Smith on the U.S. team for the semifinals and Sunday's final.

Meanwhile, Colin Jackson gave Britain its second world record in as many nights and Gail Devers completed a rare sprint double Friday at the World Championships.

Carl Lewis, meanwhile, failed to win a gold medal for the first time and Dan O'Brien defended his title in the decathlon.

Jackson won the 110-metre hurdles in 12.91 seconds, shaving one-hundredth of a second off the previous mark set by Roger Kingdom in 1989.

It marked a breakthrough for Jackson, who had long been considered one of the premier sprint hurdlers but failed to win at the major championships.

Before the race, Jackson had predicted he would set a world record and dared his American rivals to try to keep up with him. He had been enraged by comments attributed to American Tony Dees that he was a "choker."

Jackson surged out of the blocks and took the lead right at



U.S. sprinter Gail Devers clears a hurdle on her way to capturing the sprint double (AFP photo)

the first hurdle. After coming over the final hurdle, he accelerated and flashed across the finish line with a lunge.

"It just really goes to prove that Colin Jackson is the world's best runner," Jackson said after taking a victory lap with the Union Jack and Welsh flags.

"I got to the first hurdle first, very in control, and I just decided to run from there."

Another Briton, Tony Jarrett, took the silver in 13.00 seconds. Jack Pierce of the United States was third in 13.06.

Dees hit two hurdles and eased up to finish last.

Jackson's performance follows fellow Briton Sally Gunnell's world record Thursday night in the women's 400-metre hurdles. Devers was just as impressive

few strides from the gold medal. This time, she took the lead off the third hurdle and cleared all the hurdles cleanly in winning by a metre.

In the men's 200-metre final, Frank Fredericks gave Namibia its first ever gold in a time of 19.85 seconds. Britain's John Regis finished second and Lewis third in 19.99. Olympic champion Mike Marsh was fourth in 20.18.

It was another humbling result for Lewis, who only finished fourth in the 100-metres last Sunday. He had won eight gold medals at the three previous World Championships.

"I've been able to get up for all the big meets, but I had to break sooner or later, so this is the year," Lewis said.

The powerful Regis led around the curve, but Fredericks — the silver medalist in the 100 and 200 in Barcelona — passed him in the straight with about 50 metres to go.

Mike Powell defended his title in the long jump, soaring 8.39 metres.

O'Brien, the world record-holder, won his second consecutive title in the decathlon. He had a 97-point lead going into the final event, the 1,500 metres, and only needed to finish without being handily beaten by Eduard Hamalainen of Belarus.

O'Brien finished right behind Hamalainen, who collapsed to the track in exhaustion. O'Brien's final total was 8,817 points, a championship record and the fifth best legal total in history.

Hamalainen had 8,724, and Paul Meier of Germany took the bronze in 8,548.

Hamalainen needed to beat O'Brien by about 14 seconds in the 1,500 in order to win the title. O'Brien virtually clinched the title in the ninth event when he threw the javelin 62.18 metres (204 feet).

Earlier, he cleared 5.20 metres (17 feet, 3/4 inches) in the pole vault — equalling his best ever performance in the event — to take an 87-point lead after eight events.

Hamalainen topped O'Brien's effort in the pole vault, clearing a personal best 5.30 metres (17 feet, 4 1/4 inches) to move into

second place.

O'Brien, who started the day with a four-point lead over Meier, widened the gap as he clocked 14.08 seconds in the 110-metre hurdles and posted a mark of 47.92 metres (157 feet, 3 inches) in the discus.

Meier ran 14.63 in the hurdles and threw the discus 45.72 metres (150). Hamalainen set a world decathlon record in the hurdles in 13.57 seconds — bettering his own previous mark of 13.65 — and threw the discus 49.26 metres (161.7).

O'Brien said he was still bothered by a groin strain. "I was skeptical whether I could make it through the hurdles," he said. "Halfway through I was hurting...it's much worse than yesterday, but I don't expect to falter."

In Friday morning events, Olympic and world champion Hassiba Boulmerka of Algeria qualified for the women's 1,500 metre final by winning her semi-final heat in 4:13.13. Also advancing were Dong Liu of China, who had the best time (4:04.36), and Ireland's Sonia O'Sullivan in 4:05.81.

In the men's shot put, two-time defending champion Werner Gunthor of Switzerland, Olympic champion Mike Stulce of the United States and American world record-holder Randy Barnes were among the qualifiers.

Gunthor threw 20.56 metres (67 5/8), Stulce 20.53 (67 1/4) and Barnes 20.21 (66 3/4).

Two doping cases hit World Championships

Two athletes have tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs and been banned from the World Championships. They face four-year suspensions.

Dmitry Polyulin of Uzbekistan, the bronze medalist in the men's javelin, and 800-metre runner Lilia Nurutdinova of Russia tested positive for the anabolic steroid stanozolol, officials said Friday.

They were the first doping cases at the World Championships, which opened one week ago and end Sunday.

millionaire entrepreneur and Mellick's former socialist government colleague, after three Valenciennes players claimed they had been offered money to throw a crucial league match against eventual champions Marseille May 20.

Loenne, who met Tapie for approximately a minute while photos were taken for Loenne's election campaign, claims he saw neither Primorac nor Mellick. Primorac implicated Tapie, a

same time that day.

Primorac claims Tapie asked him to take the blame for the scandal, which involved fixing a result between Marseille and Valenciennes.

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same time that day.

Careca becomes Japan soccer's latest catch

TOKYO (AP) — A Japanese soccer team has acquired Antonio Careca, the veteran Brazilian forward, for a reported \$4 million over the next two and a half years.

Careca, 32, arrived Thursday to begin his career with Kashiwa Reysol, one of three associate members of the J-League, Japan's newly inaugurated professional soccer league.

The team, which is based just outside of Tokyo, is hoping Careca's skills will help them win a promotion to full membership in the league, which kicked off this year.

The promotion will depend largely on Reysol's win-loss record this season in the first division of the Japan Football League, which is one tier below the J-League.

Already in the 10-team J-League are such big-name foreign stars as England's Gary Lineker, Germany's Pierre Littbarski and Zico, another renowned Brazilian striker.

Careca played for Napoli of Italy during the past six seasons. He was on Brazil's World Cup squad in 1986 and 1990 and was also on the team for the 1994 cup until he abruptly quit last week.

At a news conference after his arrival, Careca said he decided to quit for "personal reasons" and said he has no intention of rejoining the club in the foreseeable future.

He is expected to make his debut on the field here next month in the Nabisco Cup.

New witness turns up in Marseille scandal

PARIS (AFP) — A local election candidate Friday complicated investigators' efforts to confirm the alibi of Marseille football club president Bernard Tapie, in a new twist to the match-fixing saga.

Frederic Loenne, a local election candidate for the left radicals movement which Tapie represents in parliament, was at Bernard Tapie's (BTF) June 17 in connection with forthcoming elections.

Loenne was present at BTF between 2:45 p.m. (12:45 GMT) and 3:00 p.m., but did not see former socialist minister Jacques Mellick, who has claimed he met Tapie between 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. that day.

Mellick's alleged meeting gave Tapie the perfect alibi after he was accused by former Valenciennes coach Boro Primorac of trying to bribe him at around the

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GOREN BRIDGE

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- Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠10 ♣K952 ♠KQ107 ♠AJ74
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠10 ♣K83 ♠AQJ96 ♠QJ98
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AKJ 997 ♠1083 ♠KJ1054
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What is your opening bid?
- Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠8542 ♣74 ♠108853 ♠72
South West North East
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Dbl
What action do you take?
- Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠108542 ♠983 ♠A ♠1088
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AKJ74 ♠AQJ9875 ♠7 ♠K
What is your opening bid?

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	America Shikabika		Wad Sayyed Al Shaghal (Arabic)		Pure Luck		In the popular comedy: Al Ilmu Nuron		Arab Summit Conference
	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 On Thursday and Friday special show for children at 11 a.m. a festival of cartoons.				

Bosnian Muslims under pressure to accept peace plan

Combined agency dispatches

GENEVA — Bosnia's Muslims are under heavy pressure to accept a compromise peace plan unveiled Friday for the former Yugoslav republic, and analysts said the U.S. attitude could be key to their decision.

Analysts said as long as Washington held out the possibility of military action in Bosnia-Herzegovina, hardline elements in Sarajevo would be encouraged to seek a better deal from the Serbs and Croats.

The Muslim-led government was the only delegation here to reject the new plan to divide Bosnia into three ethnically-based republics. Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic called it "completely unacceptable."

The deal would slice the Serbs' control of Bosnia from a war-torn 70 per cent to a little more than 52 per cent of the territory, while leaving the Muslims with 30 per cent and the Croats with just over 17 per cent.

But European Community (EC) mediator Lord Owen and United Nations envoy Thorvald Stoltenberg said the plan, which would triple the land currently left to the Muslims after 17 months of fighting, was the best they could offer.

They gave all parties until Aug. 30 to think it over and stressed to Muslim President Izetbegovic that the only alternative was a continued and likely more intensified war which he could not win.

"We went through the options facing him and made it very clear that it was his country, his people and his choice," Lord Owen told a news conference Friday after adjourning the negotiations.

Diplomats here said there was growing desire within Bosnian circles to end the brutal conflict, but that some hardliners such as Mr. Silajdzic and Vice-President Ejup Ganic still thought military gains were possible.

So the stance of the Americans, whose sabre-rattling on Bosnia has in the past stiffened Mr. Izetbegovic's resistance to striking a deal, will be crucial to the mediators' efforts, analysts said.

"It is important that the Americans and the Europeans make it clear that it is also their assessment that there is no military way out of this for the Bosnians," one

diplomat here said.

In January, doubts expressed by the new Clinton administration on a previous plan to divide Bosnia into 10 largely autonomous provinces prompted Mr. Izetbegovic to take a hard line at a crucial point in the negotiations.

Mr. Izetbegovic finally accepted the so-called Vance-Owen plan after Washington signalled he could expect no immediate military help, but by then the Serbs were backing out of it.

Geneva diplomats also said that U.S. threats to launch air strikes against the Serbs had delayed negotiations for two weeks this month on Serb-Croat proposals for the division of Bosnia along ethnic lines.

The United States, which has kept a very low profile in the Geneva talks, despite pledging in February to take part and sending a special envoy, made no immediate public comment on the new peace proposal.

But Secretary of State Warren Christopher sent a letter to Mr. Izetbegovic as well as President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia and Franjo Tudjman of Croatia, reportedly urging them to consider the draft agreement seriously. Mr. Milosevic and Mr. Tudjman gave full support to the plan on Friday. Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic also endorsed it, but he and Bosnian Croat chief Mate Boban said they would have a rough battle to win approval by their supporters.

Convoy reaches Mostar

Bosnian Croats allowed a U.N. convoy to deliver supplies Saturday to tens of thousands of Muslims cut off from relief for more than two months.

A U.N. statement issued Friday in Zagreb, Croatia, said the aid was for the Muslim-held east sector of Mostar, a southwestern Bosnian city that has been the site of intense fighting between Croats and Muslim-led government forces.

A small U.N. convoy arrived in the Muslim sector Saturday, said Ron Redmond, a spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva. He had no further details.

Only token amounts of aid have reached the city since June

15. The Croats want Mostar as the capital of a future Bosnian Croat state.

The U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) official who led Saturday's convoy compared Mostar's Muslim old town to the Croatian town of Vukovar, which was virtually demolished during Croatia's 1991 war of independence.

Sniper fire raked the Muslim quarter during the visit, and UNPROFOR soldiers and officials were forced to scurry past exposed areas or shelter behind Spanish battalion armoured personnel carriers.

The convoy reached the Muslim quarter at around 1230 local time (1030 GMT) and made its delivery to a laboratory built at the turn of the century which is currently serving as the local hospital.

UNPROFOR civil affairs director Cedric Thornberry, who led the convoy, described the delivery as a "symbolic" gesture, intended to open the way for regular aid convoys.

He said conditions in the Muslim hospital, which has about 50 beds jammed into its hallways and entrance, were much worse than in the modern facility he had visited in the Croat part of Mostar on Thursday.

Muslim residents waved and cheered as the convoy of eight armoured personnel carriers entered Mostar from nearby Medjugorje, after crossing the Neretva River south of the city by a bridge just north of Zimolici.

Asked about conditions in the Muslim quarter after more than a year of fighting, Mr. Thornberry said: "I've seen enough to realise much of it is as bad as Vukovar. Virtually every building is destroyed."

"We're going to have to get humanitarian aid in here and break the siege that way."

"Did you bring food or medicine?" asked one woman as the convoy passed along a narrow street, its elegant buildings pockmarked by shell and sniper fire.

"We have nothing, we have nothing," she said, turning away crestfallen when she was told the convoy had brought no food.

Scuffles broke out as the Spanish soldiers threw the contents of their ration boxes to the desperately hungry local children and old people.



An unidentified resident of Sisek hugs his old and sick mother sitting on a stretcher after she was released from the Serb-occupied town of Glina (AFP photo)

'Threats' force closure of Mogadishu airport

Combined agency dispatches

MOGADISHU — This seaside capital's airport was closed to civilian traffic for a week starting Saturday because of what the United Nations said was a threat of shelling by fugitive warlord Mohammed Farah Aided.

The closure came after a night of grenade, machine-gun and small-arms attacks on two U.N. military posts and some random firing at surveillance helicopters, Captain Tim McDavitt, a U.N. spokesman said.

No casualties were reported.

Capt. McDavitt said the airport closure was ordered after the United Nations received information "indicating that the Aided faction may have access to weapons that can threaten our aircraft and is willing to use them."

He called the barring of civilian aircraft "a prudent measure." The closure does not affect military flights.

Capt. McDavitt said the airport was closed until next Saturday "to conduct a more detailed assessment of the situation." He said it could be reopened before then.

Gen. Aided's faction is known to have mortars and rifle-propelled grenades which could be used to strike the airport from a distance, Capt. McDavitt would not say what other weapons the warlord might employ.

Mortars have been used to shell the U.N. headquarters compound in southern Mogadishu and other military sites, but no mortar shells are known to have fallen on the airport.

Capt. McDavitt declined to say how the United Nations learned of the threat.

Gen. Aided, who controls southern Mogadishu, has been blamed by the United Nations for a June 5 series of ambushes that killed 24 Pakistani U.N. peacekeepers and an Aug. 8 attack in which four American soldiers died.

It ordered his arrest and put a \$25,000 reward on his head.

Capt. McDavitt would not say whether the airport closure was a prelude to another attack on

Aided positions or an attempt to arrest the warlord.

Rumours sweeping Mogadishu in recent weeks indicated that Gen. Aided's arrest by the peacekeeping forces was imminent. Military officials declined all comment on this.

Gen. Aided went into hiding soon after the June 5 killing of 24 Pakistani peacekeepers by forces loyal to him.

He responded to the U.N. reward offer by offering a million dollars for the head of U.N. special envoy American retired Admiral Jonathan Howe.

Thirty-nine peacekeepers, five foreign journalists and up to 200 Somalis have been killed in the Mogadishu violence.

Gen. Aided's Somali National Alliance (SNA) Saturday accused the United Nations of abandoning its humanitarian role and backing American interests in Somalia.

"It is common knowledge that the American-dominated United Nations Operation Somalia (UNOSOM II) has totally deviated from its supposed humanitarian and peacekeeping mission and has instead taken sides in the civil war by giving special treatment to certain groups, while unduly accusing others of non-existent misdeeds," the SNA said.

The SNA said it was surprised at UNSOM's appeal for additional troops from the international community for Somalia at a time when, it said, the world was "calling for a peaceful end to the Somali problem."

On Wednesday, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali called for some 3,000 additional troops to beef up the U.N. peacekeeping force in Somalia in order to disarm the warring clans in the country.

The 27-country peacekeeping force has 20,000 troops present and plans are already underway to bring the force up to 28,000. But in its statement the SNA appealed to India, the Philippines and other countries not to send additional troops to Somalia to participate in what it called "the genocide and destruction peddled by the United States of America."

Other camps.

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"That's absurd," said Debra Nagle, the Sixth Circuit's public information officer. "This is not any kind of vendetta."

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Redha Malek named Algerian premier

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algeria's five-man presidential council sacked the prime minister on Saturday and appointed one of its own members, Foreign Minister Redha Malek, to take his place.

The dismissed premier, Abdul Salam Belaid, 64, was also minister of the economy. Diplomats said it was clearly the failure of his economic policies which led to his dismissal.

The front-runner crisis for Algeria's army-backed leadership is a daily struggle between the security forces and Muslim militant gunmen.

But its battle to modernize a debt-burdened, oil-based economy and create jobs for a fast growing population is widely seen as the key to success against the fundamentalists, who would have won a parliamentary election in January 1992 if the authorities had not halted the vote.

Mr. Belaid's austerity policies over the past year have been denounced as a failure by political parties, trade unions and business leaders.

Some experts predict that on present trends Algeria will be unable to service its estimated \$26 billion foreign debt by mid-1994.

Inflation is running at 20 per cent a year, unemployment at 20 per cent and industrial growth in first quarter of 1993 was 7.5 per cent down from the same period in 1992.

According to Mohammed Rashid Boukikha, vice-president of National Union of Managers of State Enterprises: "The aim of the government was to reduce debt servicing but it has jumped from 68.4 per cent to 83.7 per cent (of export income)."

"Algeria has gone from a moderately indebted country to a middle income, severely indebted country," he said.

The new prime minister, Redha Malek, 54, is well known in the West, particularly in Washington, where as Algerian ambassador he was a key intermediary in negotiating the release of American diplomats taken hostage in Iran after the 1979 Islamic revolution there.

That episode formed what diplomats say became a lasting friendship with Warren Christopher, then under-secretary of state in the Carter administration.

Previously he was the president of the National Consultative Council, set up as a legislative-type body after the army crackdown in January 1991.

Mr. Malek was appointed foreign minister on February 3, 1993, in a reshuffle of the Belaid government. Mr. Malek at the time replaced Lakdar Brahimi, who is now U.N. special envoy to Zaire.

In 1977 Mr. Malek was minister of information and culture under the late President Houari Boumedienne.

3,442 Iraqi 'refugees' said resettled in U.S.

WASHINGTON (USIA) — During the 1992 fiscal year, which ended last Sept. 30, the United States resettled 3,442 Iraqi refugees as part of a multinational effort authorized by former President George Bush, State Department spokesman David Johnson told reporters Friday. Another 4,600 are expected to be admitted this fiscal year, he said.

Mr. Johnson was asked about allegations contained in an Aug. 6 letter to President Clinton from Republican Congressman Donald Manzullo of Illinois and 74 of his House colleagues. An Aug. 20 article in the Washington Times quoted extensively from the letter which urged Mr. Clinton to deny refugee status to 4,000 Iraqi soldiers captured by coalition forces during the Persian Gulf War, and complained that the resettlement of former Iraqi soldiers and their family members could cost as much as \$70 million.

"I haven't seen the letter and won't comment directly on that," Mr. Johnson said, adding that "the majority of the information" in the Washington Times article was "inaccurate."

There are a small number of Iraqis being resettled in the United States who at one time may have worn an Iraqi uniform, but the majority did not," he said.

"At the end of the Gulf war there were some 39,000 Iraqis in camps in Saudi Arabia," Mr. Johnson said. Approximately 25,000 were civilians that had been refuge by coalition forces in the southern Iraqi city of Safwan during the civil uprising following the Gulf war. Another 10,000 were Iraqis who participated in the uprising and about 4,000 deserters from the Iraqi Army either before or during Desert Storm."

Many were opponents of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, he said.

The Saudis provided temporary refuge, and in early 1992 when it became clear that conditions in Iraq precluded the safe return home of the Iraqis, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) concluded that other solutions, such as resettlement in third countries, had to be found, he said.

In Paris, Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal said it was too late to seek a new war crimes trial against Mr. Demjanjuk and he should be allowed to leave Israel in peace.

"I think it's time to put an end to this and let Demjanjuk leave Israel," Mr. Wiesenthal told French daily Liberation in an interview published Saturday.

On Friday, Israel's supreme chief judge, Meir Shamgar, put off Mr. Demjanjuk's release until at least Sept. 2 so Nazi hunters and Holocaust survivors angry at his acquittal could seek a trial for other alleged war crimes.

Mr. Wiesenthal, who heads the Jewish Documentation Centre in Vienna, said he was convinced Mr. Demjanjuk, 73, was not the "Ivan the Terrible."

But the Nazi hunter said it was no use seeking a new trial even though he was convinced Mr. Demjanjuk had been a "murderer" during the war.

"To open a new trial we'd need witnesses to his crime," he said. "At Sobibor, the camp where 250,000 people died."

"But we don't have any, so we have to be realistic and release him," said Mr. Wiesenthal. "It's too late now."

Mr. Merritt did not respond to a request for comment.

Iraq-U.N. technical talks to start Aug. 31

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Iraq and the United Nations will begin technical talks on long-term weapons monitoring and other issues on Aug. 31, officials U.N. and Iraqi sources said Friday.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the United Nations had proposed the date and Iraq accepted and was seeking visas. An announcement was expected shortly.

The 15-member Iraqi delegation was to be headed by General Amer Rasheed, head of Iraq's Military-Industrial Commission, who was expected Aug. 28. It was not known whether Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz would attend, despite earlier indications that he would do so.

The U.N. side will be headed by Rolf Ekens, head of the U.N. Special Commission charged with eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and monitoring its military industries.

The Iraqi media savaged the administration of U.S. President Bill Clinton and vowed defiance Friday, a day after U.S. warplanes bombed an Iraqi anti-aircraft battery that fired two missiles at patrolling jets in what it called a serious provocation by Iraqi forces.

The Pentagon said two F-4g Wild Weasel electronic warfare planes were targeted by two surface-to-air missiles in the no-fly zone in northern Iraq but were not hit.

Iraq denied it had fired a surface-to-air missile and charged that U.S. planes bombed its anti-aircraft site for no reason.

An Iraqi army lieutenant on television said "40 fragmentation bombs were found close to the site attacked by American planes."

Another officer said the site "had no relation (with American allegations) and its radar was not fixed on the American planes and did not provoke them."

Yet another said Baghdad was determined to "face down American aggression and the (U.N.-mandated) embargo."

The U.N. talks are expected to resolve the impasse over the use of television monitors at two Iraqi rocket test sites. In an interim compromise to avert a U.S. attack, Iraq agreed to the placement of cameras at the sites, but they will not be activated until after the talks in New York resolve various issues on long-term monitoring.

In the meantime, Iraq has agreed to permit U.N. inspectors to be present during all rocket tests. Under terms of the Gulf war ceasefire, Iraq is permitted to develop and test short-term missiles, but not longer-range rockets reaching more than 150 kilometres.

watch" and would respond to any attacks by "enemy planes."

Iraqi television broadcast images showing the impact of the bombs launched by U.S. warplanes.

Viewers were able to see columns of smoke rising into the air and fires raging from what the announcer said were U.S. bombardments which destroyed an agricultural zone near Mosul.

The television camera showed bomb fragments lying on the ground.

Washington said earlier that U.S. warplanes launched raids on an Iraqi anti-aircraft battery that fired two missiles at patrolling jets in what it called a serious provocation by Iraqi forces.

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They also reported military officers as saying that the anti-aircraft defence was "on the

Buthelezi threatens to boycott election

LOUWSBURG, South Africa (R) — Conservative Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi called South Africa's all-race election plans "a pipe dream" on Saturday and said he would not participate on current terms.

Mr. Buthelezi, leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) and the main black rival of African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela, told reporters in his Natal-Kwazulu stronghold that a free and fair election would be impossible in the current climate of violence.

Mr. Buthelezi ordered his delegation to quit multi-party democracy talks in July when a majority of delegates agreed on the election date of April 27 next year.

Lawyers hired by Inkatha are due to begin a supreme court attempt on Monday to reverse the decision and force negotiators to give the party a veto in decisions about the transition to democracy.

Mr. Buthelezi said on Saturday he was totally opposed to the election of a multi-party assembly to write a post-apartheid constitution.

"There is no way that personally, speaking as president of the IFP, I am prepared to fight an election over who is going to write a constitution. I am just not prepared to do that because that is a disaster for our country," he said.

Asked if this meant he would boycott the poll, he said he would consult the central committee of his party before deciding.

Mr. Buthelezi told Reuters later he personally would not participate in the election law now being proposed by the government, the ANC and 17 other parties at the negotiating forum.

Mr. Buthelezi rejected President F.W. de Klerk's proposal on Wednesday for a "two-table" approach to negotiations, under which the government would seek Inkatha's approval of multi-party decisions in private bilateral talks.

Justice Department, court squabbling over Demjanjuk

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Justice Department and a U.S. court of appeals are locked in a battle over the fate of John Demjanjuk, a retired Cleveland auto worker found by two U.S. judges to have worked at Nazi camps.

The department has been reduced to begging the Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in almost daily letters to block a three-judge panel's Aug. 6 order that would allow Mr. Demjanjuk — if he is freed by Israel — to return to the United States to help with the appeal of his 1986 extradition.

But the Sixth Circuit, based in Cincinnati, has refused to act, even when it appeared last week that Mr. Demjanjuk might leave Israel in a matter of hours.

The Israeli supreme court gave the department a breather Friday by giving Mr. Demjanjuk's opponents almost two weeks to make their case that he should be retried. The Israeli court earlier overturned his April 1988 conviction and death penalty, citing reasonable doubt that he was the Treblinka death camp's notorious "Ivan the Terrible."

But he could be tried in Israel on evidence uncovered in his trial on the Treblinka allegations that he had served as a Nazi guard at

other camps.

How have the Justice Department and the Sixth Circuit reached this impasse?

Some speculate that it goes back to early 1992. That's when the Justice Department failed to respond to two Sixth Circuit letters asking what was behind news stories saying the department had hidden information casting doubt on Mr. Demjanjuk being "Ivan the Terrible."

"I think judges are very vain and when they don't get a response to their letters, they get angry," said Harvard Law School Professor Alan Dershowitz, who has criticized the handling of the case by Gilbert S. Merritt, the Sixth Circuit's chief judge.

"That's absurd," said Debra Nagle, the Sixth Circuit's public information officer. "This is not any kind of vendetta."

The Sixth Circuit sent its first letter Jan. 7, 1992, asked when Justice would finish its investigation of allegations that it had suppressed the evidence on Mr. Demjanjuk and requested a copy of its findings.

A follow-up letter sent May 4, 1992, said the court had received no acknowledgement of the first letter and that although some department officials said by

phone that a response was "in the works, nothing has materialised to date." The letter asked when a response could be expected.

On June 3, 1992, still having received no written response, Judge Merritt reopened the extradition case without any request from Mr. Demjanjuk's lawyers to do so.

William Barr, then attorney general — the top Justice Department official — said Friday that he did not pay much attention to the case and referred calls to his then-chief of Staff Daniel Levin, who, like Mr. Mueller, did not respond to a message left at his office.

However, Mr. Dershowitz said Justice was right not to have responded because that would have been an improper, out-of-court communication about a case that might be reopened.

He said Mr. Merritt also should not have reopened the case without a motion from Mr. Demjanjuk's lawyers.

"The essence of being a judge is that you sit and wait," Mr. Dershowitz said. "It's a reactive, not a pro-active job. If you want to create problems, become a lawyer."

Mr. Merritt did not respond to a request for comment.



Little Irma smiles for the first time

LONDON (R) — Irma Hadzi-muratovic, the little Bosnian girl whose plight sparked a mass evacuation of Sarajevo's wounded, has smiled for the first time since arriving in Britain 11 days ago. The Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children said the five-year-old Muslim was beginning to wake up and smile as her father Ramiz sat at her bedside. Irma is responding to stimuli but still requires intensive care, the hospital said in a statement. "We are continuing to assess her neurology although...it will be some time before we will know the full severity of any central nervous system problems," it said. Irma was evacuated in a coma from Sarajevo on Aug. 9 after the personal intervention of British Prime Minister John Major. She underwent three hours of emergency surgery to drain fluid associated with the brain infection meningitis and remove shrapnel from her body. She was badly injured in a mortar attack last month which killed her mother.

Prince Charles shows himself as a family man

LONDON (R) — Britain's heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles made front-page news as a devoted family man Saturday after a playful romp for the cameras with his two young sons. The 44-year-old prince, dressed in a red sweater and kilt, was pictured tickling his elder son Prince William and teaching his other son Prince Harry fly-fishing on a family holiday in Scotland without Princess Diana. Some tabloids declared the princess would be livid to find that her estranged husband had learned some of her public relations tricks and let the cameras record happy family moments with the children. The prince, who has less of a following among tabloid reporters, has been accused of being a half-hearted father who borrows his sons with his old-fashioned ways. His public image was more seriously damaged, however, by press reports that he had a steamy relationship with a brigadier's wife, Camilla Parker Bowles, before separating from his wife of 12 years last December. The outing to a Scottish loch was recorded for a television documentary being made about the prince. Prince Charles was pictured cuddling Prince William, 11, while another shot showed a royal aide holding eight-year-old Prince Harry upside down and threatening to dunk him in the lake. Meanwhile, Princess Diana has been holidaying with friends on the Indonesian island of Bali.

2 out of 3 Chinese students overseas do not return home

PEKING (AFP) — Two thirds of Chinese students who have studied abroad since the Communist state was founded in 1949 did not return home, Xinhua News Agency said Saturday. In an article marking the publication of the first "who's who" of Chinese who studied abroad, Xinhua said that more than 70,000 of the 200,000 total returned to work in their homeland. The book, published with the help of the Ministry of Personnel, contains 7,000 biographies of the most academically successful students who returned home and recounts their brilliant careers in China. Xinhua makes no mention of the 140,000 who did not come home, some for political motives, but more often for economic reasons. The figure of 200,000 students also includes those sent abroad for short study periods.

Women to enter male bastion of Ukrainian Navy